ABOVE: It's panto time in the Garw.
(See page 6 and 7 for full details).

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'IT WILL ADD TO PRESSURE ON SOME RESIDENTS'

Porthcawl council is split on precept rise for higher bandings

by JAYNE ISAAC

PORTHCAWL Town Council is to increase its precept by a further £5 a year at Band D.

People living in houses in higher tax brackets will pay more, while others in lower bandings will pay less.

The increase has been brought in by the Conservative-led council with backing from Labour. The Liberal Democrats opposed the move.

This is the second year running that Porthcawl will have increased its precept by £5 at Band D.

Each £5 increase yields a further £40,000 in tax revenue, and the money was earmarked in the current financial year to pay for a new skateboard park for the town.

Council leader David Deere said that by having this pot of money, they were able to draw down a further £40,000 in match funding from BCBC and elsewhere:

"We have secured £80,000 for the town – half of which is fresh money from outside. It is crucial that the council has money to provide match funding for projects like this."

The skateboard park is to be built on land at Heol y Goedwig.

"This is a facility that the people, especially the young people, have been asking for," he said.

"There was no way that BCBC would have been able to pay for it all – but by having our own money, we were able to draw down this additional funding. It's a win-win situation."

Mr Deere said that the increase worked out at 10p per household per week, which he felt people were willing to accept.

"For 30 years, the town council was nothing more than a talking shop – it was collecting money just to run itself and doing nothing.

"Things will never happen unless we make them happen."

The council has decided to add another £5 to the tax this year, giving them £80,000 to play with.

This means that householders will be paying an extra 10p a week on top of the 10p added last year.

The rise in the precept will give the council an income in total of £221,360. Band D properties will now pay a precept to the town council of £29.17p.

Coun Deere said that this figure compared very favourably still with other areas. In Maesteg, Band D properties pay £50 and in Bridgend, £36.

Coun Deere said that the skateboard park was originally suggested by Coun Gerald Davies, but when the budget was put forward last year, he and the other Liberal Democrats voted against it. They also voted against this year's proposal.

"I was very disappointed that they have consistently voted against progress in Porthcawl. It's totally negative. If we want Porthcawl to move forward, we have to put money into the pot."

However, Liberal Democrat group leader Norah Clarke said that they had voted against the increase this year, because it represented a 14 per cent rise.

"We feel it will inevitably add to the pressure on some residents, especially the elderly," she said.

"Over the past three years, the Conservatives have increased the precept by a massive 48 per cent, while cost of living increases have been at their lowest for many years."

While she supported the vision of providing facilities for the town, she could not go along with these increases:

"I proposed that council tax should rise by three per cent, in line with inflation, but this was defeated.

"It is an unacceptable rise.

"Although we need to do things for the benefit of the town, we cannot keep putting the tax up in such large sums.

"People may not be able to afford the extra £5 this year. It is wrong in the current economic climate."

However, Labour members have supported the Conservatives in both budgets.

Coun Alana Davies said that she had long felt that people in Porthcawl were willing to pay these extra pennies in council tax, if they could see the benefits.

"We have a lot of exciting projects happening. We are showing that we are here for the good of the town.

"The council is developing partnerships to get things done.

"The crossing being proposed on Newton Nottage Road is something that I have been fighting for.

"It was in a long list of schemes waiting for funding at the borough, but we can now take it forward. I am delighted that we are doing things that the people of the town can see," Coun Davies added.

The council has not yet finalised how it is to spend the extra money, but schemes under consideration include the crossing, plus a footpath linking Ocean View flats with Rest Bay; a crossing at Heol y Goedwig to serve the new skateboard park; money for furnishings for the Grand Pavilion and supporting the drop-in centre at Griffin Park.

The council has also employed a handyman full time to carry out minor repairs and maintenance work.

BCBC finance officer gets top award – *followed by the push!*

by JAYNE ISAAC

A MAN who was voted the top local government finance officer in the UK, has been made redundant just weeks later by the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

In a move which staggered many councillors, Gareth Moss, who was the council's corporate director of resources, has been 'let go' because of a restructuring of the corporate management board.

His post has been axed, with his duties and responsibilities transferred to an officer on a lower tier of management.

BCBC has confirmed that the statutory financial responsibilities carried out by Mr Moss will be transferred to another officer, who will give advice to the top management team as and when necessary.

The GEM understands that this officer is likely to be finance and property chief Allan Phillips, although the council has refused to confirm this.

The timing of the move, which took place over Christmas and new year, has been breathtaking, as it comes only weeks after Mr Moss was named 'Finance Director of the Year' in the Local Government Chronicle finance awards at a ceremony in Claridge's, London.

He was up against 150 other finance chiefs and was the first officer from a Welsh council to win the award.

The ceremony took place in December, but it now seems likely that as praise was being lavished on Mr Moss by council chief executive, Jo Farrar, who congratulated him on his "significant achievement", moves must already have been afoot to axe him!

An independent review of the corporate management board was carried out by outside consultants at the request of Ms Farrar.

This recommended that the corporate director of resources post could be scrapped and the role transferred to another, lower-paid post, in order to save money.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Renate tells her poignant story of Kindertransport

BRIDGEND County Borough Council will mark Holocaust Memorial Day with a special event this Friday in the council chamber, featuring a woman who escaped from Prague in 1939 on the last *'kindertransport'* out of the city on the eve of World War Two.

Renate Collins, who went on to grow up in the south Wales valleys, lost 60 members of her family in the Nazi Holocaust, including her parents Otto and Hilda Kress.

She still wears her mother and grandmother's rings, which were smuggled out of a concentration camp in a loaf of bread.

Exact figures are unknown, but it is estimated the kindertransports saved around 10,000 children, most of them Jewish, from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Five-year-old Renate's train was to be the last kindertransport to leave Prague.

She will use the Bridgend memorial to tell the moving story of how her mother only agreed to let her go in the final minutes at the station...Renate never saw her mother again.

The international day of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust and more recent atrocities, commemorates victims, honours survivors and commits to tackling prejudice, discrimination and racism.

The official date of HMD is January 27 – the anniversary of the date of the liberation of the Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Bridgend event will be hosted by Joe Wiltshire-Smith, a pupil at the Porthcawl Comprehensive, and Mari Izzard, from Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari.

Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Jeff Tildesley, will also light a candle in memory of the victims.

Council leader, Coun Mel Nott, who will also speak at the event, said: "Bridgend County Borough Council has a proud tradition of marking Holocaust Memorial Day and we are honoured that Renate Collins will be with us to share her very personal experience.

"Her moving testimony will be a reminder to us all of how the lessons of the past can play a part in our communities today."

(See Clive Mitchell column on Page 5).

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'Stop whingeing about fortnightly rubbish pick-up'

OF course Bridgend should introduce fortnightly collections of 'rubbish' and weekly pick-ups of 'recyclable' materials.

In Wales, the target is to recycle or compost 70 per cent of household waste by 2025.

If we fail to reach this figure, ratepayers will be penalised, as their councils will be fined. Thus, all of us need to be thoughtful about our purchasing.

Our 'out of sight, out of mind' attitude to waste has to change. Because of that looming deadline, throwing anything away today is a political act.

Disposable nappies a problem? Then buy washables. Our waste tips cannot cope with the 200 million nappies thrown away annually in Wales!

Rotting food? Why waste money in the first place? And why not learn to cook? So many television programmes extol the fun and necessity of home cooking, but in Wales we throw away one third of a million tonnes of food each year.

Recycling in Bridgend has come on in leaps and bounds in the last few years and the council should be congratulated for this, but there's a huge amount more to do.

Margaret Minhinnick (Director, Sustainable Wales)

'Cyclists do feel intimidated'

I WISH to respond to P J Alexander's follow-up letter on the issue of cycling and walking on the rural roads.

Firstly, let me agree on one point, that the safety of all road users is paramount. However, from my point of view, the use of high visibility clothing and good lighting goes without saying.

Of course, it is sensible and indeed essential, for anyone using the roads to have the best available technology to ensure that they can see and, perhaps even more importantly, to be seen.

Reflective clothing and the latest LED lights go a long way towards ensuring that cyclists and pedestrians can be readily seen at night on unlit roads.

In fact, it can be safer cycling at night (in good weather) because all road users can see each other more effectively in these circumstances.

In my experience, the use of LED front headlights on bicycles often results in more considerate behaviour from oncoming motorists, perhaps because they perceive the bright light to be coming from another motor vehicle.

I reiterate that the use of many lanes IS impractical for leisure cycling and particularly commuting. Arriving to work wet, or late because of a puncture would not have gone down well with my employers. When cycling on a bus route, at least there is the possibility of catching the bus in the event of a breakdown.

Many of the minor routes which are being advocated are quite busy; indeed, the unclassified road that I used to cycle from Llantwit to Bridgend a half century ago, can hardly be described as traffic-free now, as it once used to be.

In my experience, if a country lane is good enough for cycling, it is certain that it will also be well-used by motor vehicles.

Regarding Kevlar-reinforced tyres, I have used these for 15 years but I still get occasional punctures from thorns/hedge cuttings in the side wall, as this part of the tyre is not protected by Kevlar.

As a point of fact, these tyres are not just 'a bit more expensive' they are two-to-three times the cost, and wear out more quickly than conventional ones.

Finally, and speaking as a motorist of almost 50 years, it is a fact that many would-be cyclists are frightened to use public roads at all; but to be intimidated in this way just reinforces the view that the roads are for the exclusive use of motorists.

This then becomes a self-fulfilling philosophy.

Dr RP Sheppard, Broughton

'TRAFFIC LIGHTS ARE SAFER ALL ROUND'

LIVING near and using the A48 road, both as a motorist and as a pedestrian, I fully support the use of traffic lights on both the Ewenny and Waterton roundabouts.

With the lights at Waterton switched off, the pedestrian lights built into the system failed to give walkers any protection in crossing four lanes of traffic on a very busy road, which often came faster from its unimpeded flow.

People do walk to out-of-town retail sites and their safety must be recognised.

Secondly, the lights at these two roundabouts serve also to pulse the traffic flows, leaving small gaps in the flow.

This makes it easier and safer to access or leave the A48 at uncontrolled points, making if beneficial to pedestrians and motorists alike.

At certain times, traffic does build up at these lights, but for the majority of the day these lights cause very little delay.

Perhaps a little more patience is required.

JB Davies, Bridgend

The roads around Bridgend need much more joined-up thinking!

IN reply to the recent letters on traffic lights, I totally agree with the comments expressed about Waterton roundabout.

When the lights were turned off the traffic flowed, so why did the council not leave the lights off permanently?

Do the people in the council who make these decisions actually drive cars or live in Bridgend?

If they did, they would see the delays caused by their traffic lights policy. It is well known that cars are at their most polluting when on tick-over.

Another effect of the lights at Waterton being turned on again is the increased traffic using the trading estate to avoid them.

I work on the estate and the traffic speeding through has increased with the traffic lights being turned on again.

The traffic in most cases totally ignores the estate dual carriageway 30mph speed limit.

The B&Q roundabout does not need lights on for 24 hours, either. If they are needed at all, then it is only for an hour or so morning and evening.

I suspect the same applies to the Ewenny roundabout.

On the proposed £1.7 million A48 road improvement plan, why are we, as ratepayers, having to pay for road improvements that are only required because of the large housing developments in Bridgend? The developers should be paying to put the infra structure in place before the houses are occupied.

Even when improvements are meant to be done, they are not.

For example, at the junction by Singletons Garden Centre in Coychurch.

This junction has had a high accident rate over the years and with the building of the new houses there was meant to be an upgrade on the junction.

However, it has been left with no improvements, and an ever-increasing traffic flow, which can only increase with the large development at Coity.

When is a proper co-ordinated road scheme for Bridgend that meets the needs of the housing development, going to be put in place?

Jeremy Martin, Coychurch

'Major encumbrance to the traffic flow'

I FEEL that I must agree wholeheartedly with the letter sent in by CL Jones in last week's GEM, as I use Waterton roundabout many times during my working day and at weekends as well.

Before the lights were put back on, it really was a very simple route to work with no delays; now we have constant delays and at rush hours it is atrocious.

As Mr Jones says, no doubt the PC health and safety fanatics will say it is for some safety reason; but we do need to know from the council their reasons.

It has made my journey to work and back home again longer without any reason.

In response to the health and safety fanatics, I would like to put a green reason for not having the lights on – it makes no sense, because we are using more petrol why we wait doing nothing.

Today (January 12) has shown the traffic lights for what they are – a major encumbrance to traffic flow. At 5pm, there was utter chaos at the roundabout, due to snow and traffic lights.

Jeff Goodwin, Colwinston

'Town's badly-sited traffic light systems'

I WOULD totally agree with readers' comments on the traffic lights at roundabouts.

Why stop there? Bridgend town is inundated with poorly synchronised and badly-sited traffic lights.

On another subject – what exactly was the purpose and/or benefit of the 'improvements' to the very short section of road (A473) between the college roundabout and roundabout for Heol-y-Cyw, Llanharan? And at what cost?

M Roberts, Heol-y-Cyw

Help available from the Family Fund

FAMILIES caring for a disabled child might like to know about help available from the Family Fund.

Many families need to keep their heating on constantly to prevent infections, or to help their child's mobility.

When schools close during bad weather, having children home all day means further expense. This leaves less money for essential items such as clothing, bedding or a washing machine.

The Family Fund gives grants for these things and more, including holidays and outings, driving lessons, recreational equipment and toys.

We would welcome applications from your readers. *Details from www.familyfund.org or telephone 0845 130 4542.*

Derek Walpole, (chief executive, Family Fund)

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Is Bridgend hot-bed of binge-drinking for local young people?

ONE story that appears regularly in the media is the extent of the drinking culture among young people.

How does it affect them? And how does it affect the atmosphere in a town that may have such a reputation?

It is the sort of story where you can predict the coverage with 100 per cent accuracy. Photographers are sent out with the simple instruction: "Bring back a photo of a girl in a mini-skirt passed out in the gutter".

Oddly enough, they always seem to find one in Newcastle!

However, closer to home, it has to be acknowledged that Bridgend has had, in recent years, that sort of reputation. One police officer, in an off-the-record remark, described the town as "The cheapest place to get out of your head in the area".

In recent years, there have been a number of initiatives, with Street Pastors on the streets and police trying different methods of keeping order.

The GEM asked Jade Price, a former pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, who is now studying journalism at Bath Spa University, to talk to young people in the area with two questions in mind.

Do they feel safe on a night out in the town centre? And just how much do they drink? Here is her report...

BRIDGEND – THROUGH THE EYES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

For the last few years, the media has been picking up on an ever-increasing amount of young people 'binge-drinking' on nights out.

New Year's Eve is an occasion that encourages drinking and socialising, but were young people going over the top and binge drinking more heavily this New Year's Eve?

Did they end their nights lying in gutters due to too much alcohol? Could this be a misrepresentation, or the cold truth?

There is also some debate whether it is the males or the females who drink more. I interviewed both sexes from the 18-30 age group to see how they celebrated the New Year in Bridgend town centre.

ABOVE: Jade Price (the photo was taken on New Year's Eve.)

One 20-year-old male told me that New Year's Eve in Bridgend appealed to him because it was close by, and the drinks were cheap.

He went in with a group of his male friends and reported the "*town was quite quiet*".

I asked him how much he had to drink and he told me that he had "*three pints of lager and six vodka red bulls*" over the course of the evening.

He also noticed that there seemed to be more males than females out in Bridgend that night.

I then asked a 25-year-old what his experience of Bridgend on New Year's Eve was like. He said that he "*...hadn't intended to go into town that long, but when it picked up at about 11pm, it was worth staying. I only had two pints, though!*"

This comment suggested some unspoken expectation of young people to drink a lot on New Year's Eve. He told me that he thought *"...boys and girls drink about the same at my age, but I reckon that younger people drink more, especially the girls."*

He thought that males were "*more casual with their drink*", compared to females.

I then spoke to a 19-year-old girl who had gone to Bridgend that night with a group of her female friends. Like the 20-year-old male, she also went to Bridgend because it was the cheapest option.

She said that the drinks were cheap in places such as Cody's and Tuskers.

When I asked her what she drank she paused before replying: "*Four shots of sambuca, two apple sours, one strawberry milkshake shot.... Um, two bottles of orange VK and two double vodka lemonade and limes.*"

Despite the vast array of drinks she had, she said that at the end of the night "*I was all right. I wasn't drunk and I wasn't sober*".

I then asked her what she thought about the drinking habits of males and females on such a night.

She said: "*It's about the same. Girls drink just as much as boys, if not more sometimes; whereas girls drink shorts, boys normally drink pints though.*'

It seemed that females do indeed drink more than males. As a young woman myself, I know it can be easy to get carried away with drink, especially if they are cheap.

It was clear to see, however, that Bridgend did not witness any outlandish behaviour; there were no fights or people passing out in gutters.

I think the severity of young people binge-drinking has been slightly over-exaggerated, proven at least by the Bridgend area.

The town centre offered a fun and relaxed atmosphere for young people to welcome in the New Year.

JADE PRICE

'Is any of this property yours?' – POLICE ASK PUBLIC

Some of the electrical goods recovered by the police.

POLICE in Bridgend are trying to identify a quantity of property which has been recovered from an address in North Cornelly.

It followed the arrest of a local man on suspicion of handling stolen goods.

Among items are a number of television sets and other electrical products.

Gold jewellery, a silver Citizen man's watch, a gold chain with crucifix, and two rings were also found.

Detective Constable Richard Jones, of Bridgend CID, said:

"We believe these items may have been obtained as the result of a crime and we would like to reunite them with their owners."

● *Other items in police care are: a Pace Sky box and viewing card, a Black and Decker heat gun, a boxed remote controlled rocket car, an Avtex LCD television, a Toshiba LCD television, an Intemp iPod dock, an i-phone touch docking cradle, Naiko and Phillips DVD players, an IBM black monitor, a Hewlett Packard laptop, Red Toshiba and Dell laptops, and a red sack containing Play Station games.*

If anyone can identify any of the recovered property, contact DC Richard Jones at Bridgend CID; telephone 01656 679518.

A selection of the recovered jewellery.

Young St Clare's pupils investigate the seasons!

THE winter snow was good news for nursery teachers at St Clare's School in Porthcawl, as it provided an excellent opportunity for the children to learn about winter weather and see and feel the real thing...

"The children were able to explore the snow in the grounds of St Clare's School and learn about the properties of snow and how it melts, reported the headteacher of St Clare's," Catherine Barnard.

"Our Nursery pupils will be soon be learning about the other seasons.

"Let's hope for an early spell of sunny weather so they can learn about summer!" she commented.

Spate of car thefts in Brackla

POLICE in Bridgend are reminding motorists to ensure their vehicles are securely locked and all valuables removed when left unattended.

The warning follows a spate of thefts from parked cars in the Brackla area of the town which occurred overnight on January 11-12.

Bridgend neighbourhood Inspector Jay Winslade-Gregory said: "There were several reported thefts from parked cars overnight.

"All too often, motorists have left personal belongings visible in their cars, when they have left them parked and unattended.

"A number of the thefts were of possessions which were left on display in parked, insecure cars.

"These are crimes which could have been avoided if the motorists had remembered to remove their valuables and lock their cars."

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CHURCH BIDS A FOND FAREWELL AS KENFIG HILL REVEREND MOVES ON

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

A LOCAL clergyman who has been part of the Kenfig Hill community for the last four years, is being promoted to a position in Cardiff.

The Rev Richard Spencer, after spending four years as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Kenfig Hill, has been appointed to the Benefice of Christ Church, Roath, Cardiff.

He is to be inducted as Vicar by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, the Right Rev David Willbone, on February 4. Rev Spencer has also been made director of ordinands for the Diocese.

At his final morning's service at St Theodore's Church, he chose as his parting sermon to recite Max Ehrmann's 'Desiderata'.

'Desiderata' is a poetic formula for happiness, a gentle urging to be at peace with God and life and is known and loved the world over for its words of reassurance.

Originally thought to have been written in the 17th Century and inscribed on a wall in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Baltimore, USA, it was actually composed in 1927 by a middle-aged Indiana attorney named Max Ehrmann (1872-1945).

Literally the title means from the Latin desiderare, 'desire', 'desires'.

ABOVE: Rev Richard Spencer with his family. Left to right: Maureen and David Greville, Mrs Valerie Gordon, Andrea and Richard Akers.

ABOVE: Archdeacon Philip Morris, Coun Jeff Tildesley (Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council), Rev Richard Spencer, and Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon.

LEFT: Mrs Margaret Griffiths presenting a bouquet of flowers, on behalf of the parish, to Mrs Valerie Gordon, the mother of Rev Spencer.

ABOVE: The St Theodore's church choir.

LEFT: Rev. Richard Spencer receiving a pen set from 'Les Girls' at the church.

ABOVE: The parish team – left to right: Christine Portsmouth, Grace Wilde, Nigel Williams, Margaret Philips, Margaret Griffiths, Rev Richard Spencer, Harold Philips, Colin Langdon.

Laughing away the winter weather blues

NEWS FROM SKER WI

THE January meeting of Sker WI was held on January 14 at St David's Church Hall, Nottage, when president Nina Charlesworth welcomed 33 members.

They were informed of events taking place next month. On February 15 at 7.30pm, in St David's Church Hall, Les Charlesworth will present an audio visual show; proceeds to the Parkinson's Society.

These shows consist of slides showing views of exotic holiday destinations, as well as UK beauty spots. This charity event is open to the public, entrance £4, to include a glass of wine.

On February 16, Shrove Tuesday, Sker WI members will attend the annual pancake-tossing evening, hosted by Nottage WI at the Unitarian Chapel in Nottage.

The speaker was Mike Boyles and the title of his talk was 'Undertaking Betty'.

After explaining the intricacies of sound waves and the production of music with the aid of the computer, Mike showed some excerpts of the film 'Undertaking Betty'.

He was involved in the film, using his musical talents.

The excerpts provided plenty of laughter, making members forget any winter blues caused by the inclement weather.

Every Monday at 8pm there is line dancing, and every Wednesday at 2.15pm members of the craft group meet.

The next monthly meeting will be on February 11 at 7pm, when the speaker will be Ken Watts speaking on 'A Policeman's Lot'.

Ladies are invited to join us for fun and friendship.

For more information, contact the secretary, Cynthia Sidey; telephone 01656 784149.

BG

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

Surprise as top finance officer leaves Bridgend after receiving accolade

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The recommendation went before a panel of elected members – consisting of deputy leader Dave Sage; independent councillor Don Brett and Labour member Marlene Thomas.

They approved the recommendation that the post be scrapped and that Mr Moss be offered redundancy.

He could have appealed, but has chosen not to and has gone by voluntary agreement.

No details of the redundancy package have been made public, and it is understood that the final details are still being thrashed out.

In a statement released to the press on Tuesday, the council said that Gareth Moss had "*taken the opportunity of voluntary redundancy to move his career on as a result of the deletion of his post.*"

Jo Farrar said that the council was constantly looking at every area to bring about greater efficiencies, and she said she was confident that this was the right way forward for both the corporate management board and the council.

But she added: "We will undoubtedly miss Gareth's input and professional expertise.

"I am very grateful for the way he has helped shape the resources directorate, and for his contribution to the wider council."

Council leader Mel Nott also paid tribute and said that he had valued Gareth Moss for his contribution and advice in the 18 months since he became leader.

He added: "We wish him every success for the future."

But backbench members of the council contacted by The GEM on Tuesday were completely in the dark about this move. None knew what was happening.

Coun Bob Burns, chairman of the corporate resources scrutiny committee, confirmed that he had not been consulted or informed.

He said: "But the transformation process is a continual one and the fact that they have reviewed the top level of management is not a surprise. This was all about functions and not personalities."

Coun Burns said that the actual procedure which was used was approved by the full council last year, and there was involvement by elected members.

As chair of scrutiny, he has no worries about the process.

He said: "It is regrettable when able people leave but we still have able people left.

"Local government faces enormous pressures and while the economy is not growing, these pressures will become extreme.

"We are faced with saving £8 million in two years, although this year will not be the hardest year – they will come later."

The departure of Mr Moss means that women hold all the top corporate directorships within the authority, including the post of chief executive.

Mr Moss was appointed in 2007 by the Rainbow Alliance cabinet. He came to Bridgend from East Staffordshire Council.

We understand that Mr Moss is making no comment to the press.

Operations are cancelled at Princess of Wales Hospital

OPERATIONS have been cancelled at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend this week, as managers struggled to cope with the demand for beds.

In a statement to The GEM, a spokesman for the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board said that the hospital had been busy, with elderly patients admitted with complex medical needs, and it was also coping with a 25 per cent increase in people attending A & E as a result of the cold weather. The hospital had opened additional beds to try to limit the impact of the extra emergency cases, but very sick patients need longer stays as in-patients – and this has had an impact on the flow of patients in and out of the hospital.

The statement adds: "Unfortunately, due to the sheer number of emergency cases, we have also cancelled some elective cases.

"Patients who have their surgery cancelled will be offered an alternative appointment but we understand that any patients would find a cancellation disappointing.

"Our staff have been magnificent during this busy period and continue to work hard to ensure as little impact as possible."

However, a nurse at the hospital, who does not want to be named, said that there had been a lot of cancellations of operations where patients require to stay afterwards as in-patients.

She said that on Tuesday, almost all the beds in the gynaecology ward were occupied by either orthopaedic or medical patients.

She commented that the recent closure of Ward 3, with the loss of 28 beds, had made it more difficult for the hospital to cope.

The hospital statement pointed out that while the number of gynaecology patients had fluctuated between three and five, a number of these patients had been treated at the short stay unit for clinical procedures, including gynaecology, to reduce the impact of the cancellation of operations.

Research carried out recently has revealed that the Bridgend area now has 200 fewer hospital beds than it did in 1985.

Groundwork gives duo job hopes

TWO young men from Maesteg and Talbot Green are among the first to start work at community regeneration group, Groundwork, in Bridgend, under a pioneering scheme.

The £1-billion Future Jobs Fund initiative is part of the Government's 'Backing Young Britain' campaign and will provide funding for 150,000 jobs across the UK – the majority of which are targeted at tackling youth unemployment.

The jobs run for six months, with individuals being paid at least the minimum wage.

Lyndon Jenkins (23) of Maesteg, had been unemployed for 10 months before he was given his opportunity through Jobcentre Plus.

He now works as a landscaper at Groundwork and is involved with a number of local school and community projects in the Bridgend area.

"Being unemployed used to get me down. It's great to be back in work and put things back in the community too.

"Just having something to do every day makes you feel better," he said.

"I found it difficult getting work in Bridgend, because of a lack of qualifications, but I'm looking forward to gaining extra skills and experience through this, and gaining some qualifications too."

Paul Bowers (22) from Talbot Green, had been unemployed for more than two years before he was given the opportunity through Jobcentre Plus.

Lee Turner, regeneration manager for Groundwork, said: "There was an instant spark with Paul when we interviewed him, and Lyndon's a great lad, with a good attitude towards work.

"They're already both fitting in very well with the Groundwork team and our projects."

Hunt for raiders

POLICE are hunting those responsible after a raid on the HSBC Bank at Bridgend Industrial Estate in the early hours of Friday, January 15.

"Access was forced through the front of the premises and the raiders successfully gained access to a bank cash machine using a powered angle grinder," said Detective Inspector Jason Redrup of Bridgend CID.

"We would like to hear from anyone who was in the vicinity of HSBC Bank on Bridgend Industrial Estate very early on the Friday morning. They may have witnessed something unusual or suspicious.

"The use of an angle grinder during the offence also would have created quite a lot of noise," he added.

Contact Det Insp Redrup at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Bridgend will honour the millions of Jews who were massacred in death camps

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day

BRIDGEND County Borough Council will mark Holocaust Memorial Day in the main council chamber at the Civic Offices tomorrow (Friday, January 22).

The theme is 'Legacy of Hope' and the event will be attended by Renate Collins, who escaped from Prague on the last Kindertransport (Children's Transport).

This was the informal name of a rescue effort that brought thousands of Jewish refugee children to Britain from Nazi Germany between 1938 and 1940.

The British authorities had agreed to permit some children under the age of 17 to come to here.

The first Kindertransport arrived at Harwich on December 2, 1938, with 200 children from a Jewish orphanage in Berlin.

Renate Collins grew up in south Wales and tragically, she lost all but one of her family in the Nazi death camps.

She will be discussing her observations and memories, and then taking part in a question and answer session with representatives from local schools.

There will also be a special reading by a childhood friend of a poem written by her late husband about her mother.

A number of people will represent various sections of the community; two teenagers will act as master of ceremonies and there will be a musical session with harpists from the school music service.

The event will include the traditional lighting of a Remembrance candle and the reading of the '*Seven Statements of Commitment*'.

From 1938 onwards, the Nazis set up concentration camps and from the start of the Second World War these became sites for the mass murder of groups the Nazis considered to be racially inferior. Several hundred Dutch Jews were sent to Mauthausen in February 1941, in retaliation for a Dutch transit strike protesting against the persecution of Jews in the Netherlands.

On arrival at the camp, within a few days they had all been executed.

Thousands of Jews were worked to death under the policy of 'Annihilation through Work', during which they were starved and when unable to carry on working were dispatched to the gas chambers.

When I was a young lad, Pathe news showed pictures of prisoners being released from Belsen camp, the horror of which is still impressed on my mind.

There were 40,000 prisoners at the camp in April 1945, and Belsen was the first camp entered by the Allies. The Allied soldiers were deeply affected by the sight of atrocities carried out on the prisoners.

During the Holocaust, it was estimated that 11 million people were killed, six million of whom were Jews – approximately two thirds of all Jews living in Europe.

The Nazis built six extermination camps – Chelmo, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Auschwitz and Majdanek. Auschwitz was the largest of these camps and it is believed that one million people were killed there.

(See page 1).

Steam train

A STEAM-DRIVEN locomotive will haul a passenger train for a return journey between Paddington, London and Swansea along the main line on St David's Day, March 1.

On March 13, there will be a Heart of Wales tour, a passenger train hauled by two class 67 locomotives departing from Paddington, to Swansea, through mid Wales to Shrewsbury and back.

Tynyrheol Primary School, Llangeinor

MARTIN GRIFFITHS, the headteacher, has informed me that out of hours extra curricular clubs are being organised this term.

There will be a session where pupils will be taught how to play the guitar by Mr Griffiths himself, every Monday lunch time between 12.30pm-1pm.

On Tuesdays, there will be a club where pupils will learn how to improve the environment, this will be with Mrs Grabham between 3.15pm-4pm.

On Thursdays, there will be a music club from 3.15pm-4pm organised by Miss Jones and Mrs Pascoe.

Choir concerts

MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir is performing at local concerts organised to raise funds for various charities, such as Ty Hafan, Christian Aid, Support our Soldiers and St Anne's Hospice, and has managed to raise £4,000.

Members of this choir gave their time and travelling expenses voluntarily to attend the concerts.

The choir is now rehearsing for a concert at Maesteg Town Hall on February 27 with Maesteg and District Male Choir, together with Cor yr Hen Blwyf. The musical director for the evening will be Hayden James. All money raised will be donated to charity.

On September 22-26, the choir will be participating in the European year of culture musical celebrations in Essen. There are a few coach seats available if anyone would like to support the choir.

It rehearses at the British Legion Club, Commercial Street, Maesteg on Monday and Thursday evenings between 7pm-8.30pm, under musical director Alun Hodges, and his wife Suzanne as accompanist. Visitors are welcome at rehearsals.

Volunteers

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, Aberkenfig, members are looking for volunteers to join the committee and help to organise church events.

There is a special United Churches service at the church this evening (January 21) at 7pm.

Mothers' Union

St Bride's church, Llansantffraid Mothers' Union branch is altering the time of meetings to 2.30pm on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, during January and February.

St Tyfodwg's Church, Glynogwr

THE collection in the carol service organised by Llangeinor hunt, raised £287, which was donated to the LATCH children's cancer charity.

The church's own carol service, with a special reading by Miss Micheala Parish and a carol 'Little Donkey' played on the trumpet by Miss Melissa Childs, raised £188 towards church funds.

Police probe attack on local taxi driver

POLICE are investigating after a Radio Cabs taxi driver was assaulted and robbed in the Blackmill area of Bridgend in the early hours of Sunday, January 10.

A force spokesman reported: "The victim, a 48-year-old man from Brackla, had picked up four male passengers on Station Hill in the centre of Bridgend at around 4.20am.

"At approximately 4.30am, he pulled into the forecourt of the Murco petrol station on the A4061 in Blackmill to drop the passengers, when they assaulted him and stole his night's takings."

One of the men was described as white, approximately 5ft 8ins tall, stocky build, with a shaven head.

He was wearing a white t-shirt and jeans and spoke with a Welsh accent.

Another man was smaller in stature than the other passengers in the vehicle, who were taller and broader.

Detective Constable Richard Jones, of Bridgend CID, said: "This was a very serious and unprovoked assault of a taxi driver going about his business.

"We are appealing for information from anyone who may have witnessed this offence, or who may have seen the four men entering the taxi at around 4.20am on Station Hill."

Anyone with information is asked to contact DC Richard Jones at Bridgend CID, on 01656 679518, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

A night at the races

THE Rotary Club of Porthcawl is organising a fund-raising 'race night' at the Hi-Tide Inn in Porthcawl on Thursday, January 28.

Tickets, which include a meal, will be £38 per person and are available from Alan Balkwill on 01656 784198.

A spokesman said: "This 'race night' has developed over the years into an annual event, eagerly awaited by all 'racers'."

GARW'S JACK AND THE BEANSTALK RAISES CASH FOR CHERNOBYL KIDS

THE Garw Valley pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk was held at the Blaengarw Workmen's Hall last week, with the last show on Saturday afternoon, January 16.

There was an appreciative audience who enjoyed the comedy and banter.

The pantomine was to raise funds for the Chernobyl children's charity. The money goes to help 115 children at an orphanage in Chernobyl.

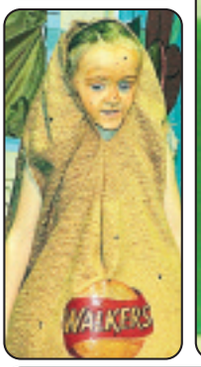
In 1986, a nuclear reactor accident at Chernobyl, which is in the Ukraine, caused deaths through radiation poisoning.

Local businesses and people have donated money, time and goods to the cause.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

These (and more pictures of this event on the opposite page) can be purchased by contacting: e-mail *glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk* (or telephone 01446 773225).

Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



Garw treads the boards to boost Chernobyl charity

SEE STORY AND PICTURES ON PAGE 6

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

DARYL GETS 'WRITE' INTO GEAR!

BRIDGEND company director Darryl Sleath, has beaten thousands of hopefuls to make it through to the next stage of the hotly contested 'Write into gear' competition – a nationwide search fuelled by Shell V-Power and Auto Express to find the UK's next top motoring journalist.

Darryl is now one of 10 lucky finalists to be put through his paces in a bid to claim the top prize; a three-month internship at *Auto Express*, where he will get to drive supercars and jet off to exotic road trip locations, while being paid to write about it.

You can help Darryl get a step closer to winning his ultimate dream by voting for him at www.writeintogear.co.uk /shellv-power.

Darryl said: "I am thrilled to have got through the first stage.

"It has always been an ambition of mine to become a motoring journalist.

"Write into gear finally gives me the chance to combine my love of cars with a passion for writing. Please don't forget to vote and help put me on the path to my new dream job!"

Pamper sessions

THE Friends of Tyn-y-Coed Surgery will be holding another ladies pampering evening on Friday, February 12 – just in time for Valentine's Day!

Entry £1, and £3 for each mini treatment – Aloe Vera facials, manicures and pedicures will all be on offer.

The event will take place at Sarn Lifelong Learning Centre, 7pm-9pm. All welcome.

Art Central is also displaying entries received in the Vale's first open art competition – 'Spirit of Winter.

Porthcawl Stroke Club has a very busy year ahead!

Ray Cross and Keith Duggan with Carwyn Jones (now First Minister) and Coun David Newton-Williams..

THE Porthcawl Stroke Club calendar is once again full for the year ahead, with many activities planned, and trips of an educational nature to look forward to.

The majority of members made Christmas table centres with the support of Lyn and Yvonne Guttridge, they were truly a delight to see.

We would all like to thank Lyn and Yvonne Guttridge and congratulate them on the birth of their new grandchild.

We would also like to thank Keith Duggan and Ray Cross for the wonderful work they do on behalf of all the stroke survivors.

Anyone wishing to join the Porthcawl Stroke Club can contact chairman Keith Duggan on (01656) 773376, or Ray Cross (01656) 782190.

Porthcawl Stroke Club meets at the Rest Holiday Home Rest Bay every other Wednesday at 10am-12pm.

Barbara Matthews

Local planning applications

Mr D Thomas – **21 Swn yr Afon, Kenfig Hill** – erect boundary wall and fencing to rear garden boundary to include land into curtilage with a decked area.

KJ Herbert Insurance Services Ltd – **KJ Herbert Insurance Services Ltd, 1D Dunraven Place, Bridgend** – replacement vinyl graphic to front elevation providing change from existing Bradford & Bingley to Santander image.

Mr I Edwards – **32 Cefn Glas Road, Bridgend** – fell and remove one tree.

BCBC Children's Directorate – **Oldcastle Infants & Junior School, South Street, Bridgend** – retention of a new classroom extension containing five classrooms and admin area.

Mr ML Short – **75 West Park Drive, Porthcawl** – extension and loft conversion.

Ms S Attwood – **Aber House, Aber Road, Ogmore Vale, Bridgend** – extend existing single detached garage into double garage and associated works.

Mr S Gentle – **Llety Tirion, Garth Mountain Road, Maesteg** – portable wooden framed utility/wood shed.

McArthurGlen Shopping Village – **McArthurGlen Shopping Village, The Derwen, Bridgend** – freestanding showroom conservatory.

Mr M Khaliq – **Sea View Farm, Pyle Road, Porthcawl** – retention of temporary mobile home in association with egg farm production unit.

Hertel (UK) Ltd – **10m Heol Mostyn, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle** – demolish storage sheds and build new extension for electrical workshops and relocation of public sewer.

Mrs J Brigley – **12 Y Goedlan, Maesteg** – conversion of integral garage to additional living space.

Ellermans Property Holdings – **former petrol station, Bridgend Road, Maesteg** – proposed new residential development for seven three-bedroom dwellings (terrace) with off road parking.

Mr R John – **16 Zoar Avenue, Maesteg** – rear (single storey) extension and alterations.

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How much land in the area does Bosch firm own?

by PHILIP IRWIN and TIM CHAPMAN

MYSTERY surrounds the status of land around Miskin, which includes the 29 acres of the Bosch plant – and a further 135 acres besides.

A former chairman of the Vale Council's planning committee believes that Bosch still own that land.

In addition, he says that the land was the subject of "mind-boggling" and "priceless" planning permission.

Mr Tony Williams, the former deputy leader of the Vale Council, and a long-serving chairman of the planning committee, told The GEM: "Vale residents found the Bosch saga to be dubious and disquieting from the outset.

"A vast area of countryside was granted planning permission when the former South Glamorgan County Council intervened – although it was the Vale Council that would normally have had planning jurisdiction.".

"Although their entire factory site required only 29 acres, South Glamorgan granted approval on 164 acres! Bosch then purchased the entire 164 acres," he recalled

Mr Williams said his thoughts were with the workers who were about to lose their jobs, but wondered how they would feel when they discovered the company had a golden legacy of its own.

"Naturally, we all extend our sympathy to the Bosch workers, but how must they feel now, facing a bleak and uncertain future, when they see the company which is abandoning them walking off with priceless planning permission on 164 acres of the countryside. That's multi-nationals for you!"

He added: "Despite trousering millions from the public purse and accepting major inducements, Bosch is closing down its 'flagship' development in the Vale.

"Although it can be argued that some 20 years of skilled, well-paid jobs have resulted, the salutary lesson here is, that the lure of low-wage economies is irresistible to multi-nationals, regardless of the initial long-term promises made."

A Welsh Assembly Government spokesperson told The GEM : "This is not a matter on which we can possibly comment, as the allegations refer to a time before the Welsh Assembly Government even existed. Questions on planning permission should be directed to the local authority responsible.

"We are currently focusing all our efforts on helping the workers of Bosch through this difficult time, and assisting them to find new jobs or gain new skills so they can start alternative careers."

The GEM also approached the Vale Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf Council, but at the time of going to press, no response had been received.

A Bosch spokeswoman said: "Bosch dealt with the owner directly and purchased the land at market value.

"Therefore, it is not possible to comment on actions taken by the South Glamorgan County Council in respect to this, as we were not involved."

• *The GEM asked if Bosch still owned the land, but we were informed that an answer could not be given before we went to press.*

(See Bosch closure blow on page 11).

Pupils lead the way down memory lane

MYNYDD CYNFFIG WI

PRESIDENT Mrs Enid Rymer welcomed members back after the Christmas break and wished all a Happy New Year.

After a short business meeting, members welcomed speaker, Mr Ken Maund, who showed slides on the Bro Cynffig Chronicles Project and explained that all schools in the area had been taking part.

Pupils had researched the history of the area by asking their parents and grandparents to recall memories and events from when they were young, and to describe the shops and buildings that are no longer there.

From the research, a website has been created and can be accessed via the internet on www.cynffigchronicles.co.uk.

As this year is the 60th anniversary of the formation of the branch, there will be a special celebration to commemorate the occasion at next month's meeting on February 9. The speaker will be Mr David Allen, who will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Everest Base Camp'. **MG**

Porthcawl Mayor welcomes the new town clerk

LEFT: Porthcawl has a new town clerk, Alison Leyshon, and she is pictured (above) being welcomed by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Rosemary Deere.

(Photograph by Keith E Morgan).

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre ***(Telephone: 01656 725219)***

Theft from van at Laleston

POLICE in Bridgend are investigating the theft of a large quantity of hand tools and power tools from a van which was parked on the A473 at Laleston.

The theft took place some time between 4.40pm and 5.30pm on Thursday, January 14, when the vehicle, a white Peugeot Partner van, was parked and unattended.

South Wales Police are asking anyone who may have information about, or who witnessed anything suspicious, to contact them.

Anyone with information about this theft is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 01656 679518 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Terrier Fudge is one real bundle of energy!

THIS WEEK: Fudge is a terrier cross and is approximately two years old.

A Dogs Trust spokeswoman said: "He's a bright and cheeky little dog. He enjoys the company of other dogs, but he does need help with his social skills, as he can be OTT with them.

"He is full of energy and will need plenty of exercise. He is very sharp and has a high chase drive, so he will need lots of fun things to do to channel his energy in the right direction.

"He will benefit from attending training classes."

She continued: "He will need a home with someone used to terriers and their strong characters! He is suitable with children from 14 years and he could live with a calm, well-adjusted female dog.

FUDGE.

BRIDGEND CHESS CLUB NEWS

Snow 1...Chess 0

CHESS may be an indoor sport, but the the Arctic weather made sure there was no action last week.

Snow and ice made the roads too dangerous to travel to away venues, postponements were almost inevitable.

On a brighter note, the draw for the Welsh Chess Union Knock-Out Cup has been made. Bridgend Chess Club dominated the competition last year. On finals day in July 2009, Bridgend had four teams competing, one in each category.

After such a good show, the club is keen to retain the silverware this year.

In the Open, Bridgend Time Lords, who had a bye in the preliminary round, have the prospect of a tricky first round clash with the winners of White Knights versus Caerphilly. Both teams are experienced cup campaigners and will provide a stern test of Bridgend's credentials.

In the under-1800, Bridgend feature two new teams, captained by Neil Stuart and Mark Jones, both eager to spearhead an assault on the cup for the club. Bridgend Nosferatu (Neil Stuart's team), have another difficult away draw. They will come head to head with Penarth Piers in the preliminary round of the competition.

The Bridgend Bunnies, captained by Mark, have an equally difficult draw against Newport. The Gwent side are a bit of an unknown quantity, but Bridgend will take solace in the fact that this was a home draw at least.

In the under-1500 Cup, two juniors, Michael John and Nathan Trickey, will use their league teams to try and retain the trophy, won last year by Bridgend Jedi.

The Wraith have an away day in Caerphilly, and SG-1 have drawn Cardiff at home. **ANDREW TRICKEY**

Weekly chess puzzle

SOLVE the chess puzzle above and submit your entry to us.

Each week there is a free month's membership to Bridgend Chess Club up for grabs. In addition, each entry is placed into our monthly prize draw.

White to play • Mate in three moves • BCC-011

The Gem - January 7, 2010. Answerto Puzzle BCC-009

1. Qxb5+ Ka7 2. Kxc8 Bb7+ 3. Qxb7# or 1. Qxb5+ Ka7 2.Kxc8 Nb8 3. Qxb8# or 1. Qxb5+ Ka7 2. Kxc8 c6 3. Qxa6# Winner: Jon Walmsley, Bridgend. January's Book Prize: *Simple Winning Chess* by Chris Baker

Entries to: Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL

Email entries to : andrew@bridgendchessclub.org.uk

Charity's thanks public for support

LOCAL homelessness charity, Llamau, which operates in Bridgend, was overwhelmed by the support it received for its recent Christmas present appeal.

Every year, the charity asks for help with providing Christmas gifts and food for the vulnerable homeless young people and women it works with, and they are always inundated with offers of help.

Chief executive, Frances Beecher, said: "This year, we were delighted with all the support we received, both in financial contributions and with the donation of gifts."

All the gifts and food received were distributed before Christmas, and thanks to everyone's generosity, all young people receiving support from Llamau were able to enjoy a happier Christmas.

Llamau are still accepting gifts to be used all year round as birthday presents.

For more information, please call Rachal on 029 2023 9585 or email rachalminchinton@llamau.org.uk

'Put traffic lights to better use'

I NOTED in The GEM last week that there was a response from the Vale Council over their gritting policy; however, there does not seem to be a response from the appropriate department at the Bridgend Council with regard to traffic lights at the Waterton and B&Q roundabouts.

How many letters will it take before they see fit to justify to us the need for these lights?

After months of smooth flowing traffic while the lights were out of action, on my commute from Cowbridge to Bridgend, I am now again witnessing near accidents on a daily basis.

This is due to the unnecessary build-up of traffic on the roundabout and the roads adjoining.

I guess that the traffic lights will be removed once there is a tragic accident. Some of the traffic lights could then be put to a far more effective use, for example, at the Coychurch end of Coychurch Road.

I look forward to my letter prompting a response from Bridgend Council.

Nicola James, Aberthin

RAF Corporal

LAST week's GEM carried a court report which praised Mr Simon Glendinning for his part in disarming a man carrying a samurai sword and dagger.

The report described Mr Glendinning as a Private in the Army, but The GEM would like to make clear that he is, in fact, a Corporal in the RAF.

Read your GEM online at bridgend-today.co.uk or porthcawl-today.co.uk

Drovers Run will test local athletes

THE Pencoed Triathlon Club is offering a real test for local runners in March – a six-mile muddy run through the hilly countryside.

The club's annual Drovers Run will take place on Sunday, March 14, and a club spokeswoman said: ".It is a challenging six-mile hill run starting from the Eagle pub in Brynna, past the wind farm and back down!

"If you fancy having a go alone, or want to put a team together, enter online at *www.pencoedtri.org* or contact Mike Hughes on 07800886183. There will be refreshments served at the finish!"

An introduction to Buddhism

SESSIONS explaining the Buddhist way of life are being held in Bridgend throughout February.

They are being held on Wednesdays from February 3-24 (each class £5, concessions £3), at the Quaker Meeting House, Park Street.

For more information, call the Dharmavaja Centre on 01792 458 245.

Bridgend tax office is marked for closure

HM Revenue and Customs has announced that it intends to close 10 offices in Wales (and 130 in total across the UK) including the Bridgend office in Tremains House.

The 28 staff have fought long hard battles in the past to save the office from closure, when it was located in Wyndham Street.

In all, 1,700 jobs will go, including 325 in Wales.

Civil Service unions have condemned the decision at a time of recession. Wales will be hit harder than other areas because it is more dependent on public sector jobs than the UK as a whole.

Staff have been given until February 8 to decide whether to accept voluntary or compulsory redundancy, or try to hang on in case they can be redeployed.

Marianne Owens, spokesman for the PCS union in Wales, said that the closures were first announced several years ago as part of efficiency savings intended to deliver 25,000 job cuts in HMRC. Thousands of jobs have already gone.

The office closures are expected to cost the government £100m.

She said: "Given the very limited opportunities for redeployment for most of those affected, there is little real choice here.

"Staff are being asked to jump before they are pushed."

She said that the government should be investing in staff and offices to recoup the estimated £130 billion tax revenue lost to tax evasion and avoidance each year.

Could Ynysawdre care home be base for dementia services?

GLAN-YR-AFON residential care home at Ynysawdre could become a base for people suffering from dementia in Bridgend county borough.

The cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has received a report about developments of services for people diagnosed with dementia.

The council has been working with the Abertawe Bro Morganwg health board to develop more effective services for people with dementia and their families.

The number of people of retirement age in Wales is expected to rise by 11 per cent over the next 20 years, compared to a population increase of three per cent.

The number of those aged 85 and over is also expected to rise by more than a third during this time.

People are also choosing to live in their own homes for longer and will need a broader range of services.

The number of people with dementia is also expected to rise by 38 per cent over the next 15 years.

Funding of £500,000 has been received from the Welsh Assembly Government to develop a new service for people with dementia, and for older people with a mental illness. This new service, being implemented at the moment, consists of three elements:

● A team will provide a mental health liaison service to all acute wards at the Princess of Wales Hospital. The team will help with safe discharges based on assessment and care planning. This service is due to start in April. It will include a full time psychiatrist, an occupational therapist, community psychiatric nurse, part time psychologist, social worker and administrator.

● Reablement Service – this provides support at home for people with dementia. At the moment, the service helps 106 people with dementia by providing more than 800 hours of help each week.

● There will also be a 'support and stay' intensive support team to help people with dementia at home and it will include two psychiatric nurses and health care assistants.

The council and health board are also seeking to provide specialist dementia accommodation.

Talks have been held about how to use Glan-yr-Afon. Proposals include remodelling the site to provide high quality accommodation with clusters of four to eight rooms with a central lounge, dining room and kitchen where residents can socialise.

Each wing of the complex can be used independently of each other.

Various options are under consideration at the moment but no decisions have been made.

A further report will be made to cabinet later.

Decision time imminent for Maesteg swimmers

THE future of Maesteg swimming pool could be settled within weeks.

A report is being prepared for the next Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) cabinet meeting in February about the position of the pool, which needs repairs estimated to cost £674,000 over the next five years.

The main areas of concern are the mechanical and electrical equipment, including the filtration plant.

A briefing paper was prepared for members before Christmas, which outlined three options for the pool, which was built originally in the 1930s as an open air pool and then covered over in the 1960s. These include:

• To refurbish the existing pool at a cost of £1.2m

• To demolish and rebuild on the same site at a cost of £2.7m

• To demolish and rebuild on an alternative site at a cost of £2.8m plus fees.

These options have not yet been considered by the cabinet.

In the meantime, Maesteg Town Council has set aside £35,000 in its budget to make a contribution to the costs of any works that may be carried out if they are asked to provide some of the finance.

What now for the Harlequin?

PORTHCAWL Civic Society is to ask Bridgend County Borough Council about its plans for the old Harlequin building in Porthcawl.

The Welsh Assembly Government has refused to give the council permission to demolish the former antique shop, which stands in the Hillsboro Place car park.

Caroline Vaughan, secretary of the civic society which opposed the demolition, welcomed the decision.

"We feel that the council should now look at renovating the building, selling it, or renting it. It could be an asset to the conservation area – but at the moment, they have allowed it to deteriorate into an eyesore.

"We need action now – not more procrastination and delay," she insisted.

Temporary pool closures

THE swimming pools at Pyle and Pencoed will be closed until Monday, January 25, for essential maintenance to take place.

The no limits fitness suites and health suites at both centres are open as normal.

"Bridgend County Borough Council apologises for any inconvenience that this may cause. For details of alternative swimming pools in the county borough, visit www.bridgend.gov.uk <http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/," a spokesman said.

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KENFIG HILL RUGBY ROUND-UP **PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER GILLING.**

Mules take cup tie after second half fightback

KENFIG Hill Firsts played Tondu in a pulsating cup tie played in dreary conditions, with the Mules glad of a game after several weeks of inaction due to the weather conditions.

Tondu made an explosive start when back row forward Nathan Brown went over without a finger being laid on him straight from the kick-off.

Kenfig Hill then lost winger Ian Williams when he was yellow-carded. Kenfig outside-half

Nicky Giles then kicked a penalty for the Mules.

Nathan Brown scored his second try of the game when Tondu took a line-out close to the Kenfig Hill line and he drove over in the corner.

Tondu pressed hard for the rest of the half and although the conditions suited their style of play, the Mules' defence was solid.

Half time score: **Kenfig Hill 3 Tondu 10.**

After some good attacking play at the start of the second half, Kenfig Hill added to their score with a penalty by Giles.

They then shot themselves in the foot with their third yellow card of the game, when full-back Chris Hooper transgressed.

Next, Kenfig started an attack from inside their own half and chipped ahead close to the opposition line. An attempted clearance kick was charged down and Nicky Giles was on hand to take the try, and put over the conversion.

After more good possession, prop Neil Billingham showed fine handling skills to score a try, converted by Giles.

Back row forward Steve Gillard almost crossed the line late on for Kenfig, but was stopped short by some desperate tackling.

Final score: **Kenfig Hill 20 Tondu 10.**

For Kenfig Hill, it was a good all-round team performance with an outstanding display from outside-half Nicky Giles, playing his first game for the first team after a lay off following knee surgery. Mark Jenkins, Steve Gillard and Scott Waller also stood out.

Man-of-the-match Nicky Giles on the far left about to tackle his opposite number.

SECOND TEAM KENFIG HILL 33 – TONMAWR 15

THIS was a superb win for the Seconds against a highly-rated Tonmawr team.

Mathew Bater scored a long-range try, showing some neat sidestepping skills on the way, and Rhys Stanton sped over on the wing while Marc Fitzgerald used his strength to power over for another Mules' try.

Ray Evans scored a try, bursting through the covering defence, and Kenfig were also awarded a penalty try, several players claiming they had the ball and were prevented from scoring by foul means.

Matthew Tossell had a good day with the boot, putting over four conversions in difficult conditions.

For Kenfig Hill, Matthew Bater, Chris Phillips and Matthew Tossell stood out for the side in what was an all round good team performance.

KENFIG HILL/CORNELLY YOUTH 12 - YSTRADGYNLAIS 23

THE Youth were let down by a poor first half performance but were outstanding in the second half against a powerful 'Gynlais' outfit.

There were tries for Lewis Morgan and Ieuan Jones and a conversion by Shaun Burnell. Jonathan Steggles, Ross Cooper and Ieuan Jones all had outstanding games.

KENFIG HILL 51 – MAESTEG WELSH 0 (UNDER-12S)

THIS was the first game in seven weeks for the under-12s and they put in an excellent team performance against a weakened Maesteg Welsh team.

From the kick-off, Sam Young caught the ball and, after evading numerous tacklers, scored under the posts. (Connor Tantum converted).

This was quickly followed by a Lewis Rees try after a good back line attack. Maesteg struggled with the quick ruck ball provided by the Mules forwards, with Sam Comley and Sam Young again scoring out wide.

Maesteg picked up the pace, with their scrum-half and outside-half trying at every occasion to move the ball, but with Cameron Rees and Josh Dixon pressurising in defence, it was difficult for them.

A Kenfig Hill second row makes a clean line-out catch.

Not to be outdone by the other backs, Connor Tantum went blind off a quick ruck ball and sprinted to score and convert. 29-0.

The second half started with another fine try for Connor Tantum. Maesteg, to their credit, stuck to the game and started to win the 50/50 ball during this period.

However, the young Mules where in fine form, with Sam Young completing his hat-trick with another strong running try.

In the final minutes, Kenfig outside-half Liam Evans, who had a fine game, scored two tries to take the final score to 51-0.

The pick of the forwards were Nathan Jones and Ethan Jenkins, while Sam Young in the backs showed excellent strength and speed.

This was another very good team performance, especially after no training and matches played in the last six weeks.

GO'S

One of the Tondu players didn't really get involved in the game.

'DEVASTATING' – 800 JOBS ARE LOST AS BOSCH LEAVES WALES

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

THE decision by Bosch to close its plant at Miskin in the Vale has been described as a "devastating" blow for more than 800 workers and the wider local economy.

Employees had hoped that a 90-day consultation period would result in a limited number of redundancies, preserving the majority of jobs and the factory's future.

Colin Tucker (51) who has worked at Bosch for 15 years and is on the plant council, a go-between body for the workers and management, told The GEM: "It is devastating. Nowadays it is very difficult to get employment and many people end up getting short-term work for periods of three months or six months.

"It reminds me of the 1980s – it's almost as though we've stepped back in time."

Colin, who lives in Llantrisant, said that he was lucky because his family were grown up, but for other people, it would mean a lot of worry.

"I have seen redundancy before, and always kept my outgoings to a minimum, but there are a lot of younger people who have houses and families and will struggle with this.

"Most people at Bosch are under 40 and that is the most expensive time of life, as they get a house and bring up their children.

"Job prospects for the basic manufacturing worker are minimal at the moment."

Colin said the workforce were not happy with what had been offered in terms of redundancy payments, and that many employees were still uncertain as to whether they would be leaving in the summer or at Christmas.

The factory was built in 1989 and manufacturing began in 1991. It makes alternators for the car industry.

Jason Evans, aged 38, who has three young children, had hoped Bosch would see him through the majority of his working life.

He explained: "I have been there for 19 years – almost from the beginning.

"There was a time when the job security seemed good and you could plan your lifestyle round that.

"This is the only industry I have known, and the chances of moving into something similar seem very slim.

"When people first heard the news, there was an initial sense of shock, then people started to think about the consequences and what they were going to be paid in redundancy.

"If I were a single man, I'd consider going abroad to find work, but with a wife and three children that isn't something I can do."

Last week, two supporters of the Right to Work organisation Seb Cooke and Andrew Fitton held a demonstration outside the Bosch plant.

Mr Cooke said: "The government has given money to the banks, it should step in to stop people going on the dole.

"We're fighting job cuts in south Wales and have had a good response from the Bosch workers."

'Complete sadness'

At The Miskin Arms, just across the M4 from the Bosch plant, there was sympathy for the workers.

The owner, Colin Ferris, said: "My reaction is of complete sadness that a company can bring prosperity to an area, and then up-sticks. When something like this happens, it flattens everybody, the employees their families and friends."

The Vale's Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, said she was in contact with the highest levels in the Bosch management and the Welsh Assembly Government to support the workforce in securing the best compensation deal, the best retraining and careers support opportunities to safeguard their future.

She said: "Over the past few months, I have had regular meetings with Bosch, its plant workers, the unions, and my Assembly Government colleagues to press for a new product line in Wales.

"This is a highly-skilled work force which has worked hard for Bosch and contributed to the local economy.

"Our main priority now, is working with the plant council and their trade union representatives to support all those who will be affected by this announcement of the closure of Bosch.

ABOVE: The Bosch manufacturing plant at Miskin, where 806 jobs are likely to go within the next year.

"They are at the forefront of our concerns and our united action."

She added: "I was bitterly disappointed to hear this news, especially after the meeting held in October with Bosch senior management and the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, during which it was hoped that the Vale plant would be considered for new product development, thus safeguarding the future of its skilled workforce."

South Wales Central AM Chris Franks said: "This is a devastating blow for the whole south Wales economy and to all the families involved. I know that Welsh Ministers and officials have worked hard talking to Bosch's management and workers to find a way of keeping these jobs. Ieuan Wyn Jones has held meetings with senior management to explore all options for keeping these jobs. Ultimately, the firm has made up its mind to go, which is a hammer blow for the workforce."

The president of Bosch's starter motors and generator (SG) division, Mr Stefan Asenkerschbaumer, said: "I deeply regret that we could not find a solution for the Cardiff plant. I have spent time in a previous role as plant manager in Cardiff and I know first-hand the dedication and commitment of the employees here.

"Therefore, this is for me personally one of the toughest decisions in my career. However, with my responsibility for the whole starter motors and generators division, the economic situation in the market leaves me no other choice.

"Without structural adjustment, the long-term commercial future of the whole division is at serious risk. I am hopeful that the plant management, plant council and union will achieve a fair agreement and amicable solution for all employees during the phase-out of production at the factory."

Bosch production is being switched to Hungary.

• *Last month, The GEM reported that 339 jobs would be phased out at the St Athan aircraft business unit over the next four years.*

Former ambassador to speak at Union

THE South Wales branch of the English Speaking Union has a high-profile guest speaker at its next literary lunch on February 19.

Sir Christopher Meyer was the former Ambassador to the United States during the Presidencies of Bill Clinton and George W Bush.

Sir Christopher will speak on 'Getting our Way; 500 Years of Adventure and Intrigue : the Inside Story of British Diplomacy'.

For further information, contact Graeme Morgan on 029 2055 4765, email graememorgan@btinternet.com (or Derek Morgan on 01656 669129 email derekmorgan@admorgan.fsnet.co.uk)

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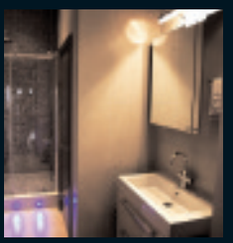

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'RETROGRADE STEP' – councillors

'Redesign' of town post office means longer queues...

THE redesign of the Crown post office in Dunraven Place, Bridgend, has resulted in longer queues.

That's the claim of Bridgend town councillors, who are dismayed at the loss of the post shop inside the branch, where people could buy stamps, cards and Lottery tickets – without having to join the main queue.

Coun David Unwin told the council that the area where the 'shop' had been located was now a void.

"You used to be able to walk in and get a stamp without joining a long queue for the main counter, but it is no longer in existence. It's a retrograde step.

"Over the Christmas period, the queues were much longer than they used to be. There can be 20 or 30 people in the queue."

He urged the council to write to Post Office Counters to point out the problem.

"We have lost sub-post offices which have closed, so there are more people wanting to use the post office than otherwise, but they have taken staff and facilities away and downgraded it."

Coun Unwin said that the sale of Lottery tickets must have been hit by the changes.

"People now have to queue up to buy them at the main counter, but I imagine that many will not wait in a long queue and will instead buy them at a newsagent or shop around the corner instead.

"We also have people wanting to transact important business waiting while others buy Lottery tickets. It's crazy!"

Coun Bob Burns stated that the council should ask for figures about queuing times and also Lottery sales, if necessary using Freedom of Information.

It was agreed to contact the post office.

A spokesman for Post Office Ltd claimed that the Post Shop had been removed from the branch because sales had changed over recent years, with sales in the post shop declining, while costs were increasing.

Customers were also demanding access to the growing range of services on offer – like insurance, mortgages, loans and savings.

The shop was removed to create two new private areas where people can get help in confidence from trained advisors.

However, the spokesman said that they were concerned about issues like the quick purchase of stamps and Lottery tickets and the adverse effect on queuing times. These issues will now be considered.

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Hannah is bowled over in Laleston!

James Steptoe of Tring Cricket Club in Hertfordshire bowled a maiden over when he married Miss Hannah Morgan, the daughter of John and Jane Morgan of Crossways House, Laleston, on New Year's Eve. The wedding took place at St David's Church, Laleston and the ushers formed an archway of cricket bats (above) to honour the happy couple.

PHOTOGRAPH by MARCUSBELLPHOTO.CO.UK

Bridgend's reusable message

BRIDGEND may soon be full of bag ladies – and men – if the town council has its way.

The council may commission a special re-usable cotton shopping bag bearing a design drawn by pupils of Penybont Primary School, with the words *Bridgend Town* on it.

It also bears the slogan – '*Buy me and use me over and over again*'. It has a logo of the world with a face and legs.

Coun Diane Burns made a prototype from material she had at home and brought it into the council for members to inspect.

She said that the council should take this prototype around shops in Bridgend to get support from traders who would be invited to sell the bags to their customers.

The council has agreed to get costings for producing these bags. A decision will then be made on how much they would sell for and how many should be ordered – if the council decides to proceed.

Two councils freeze their precepts

TWO of the major towns within Bridgend county borough have decided to freeze their precept at last year's level.

Maesteg Town Council has decided to keep its precept at £50 a year for Band D – which was the highest in the county borough last year.

This will produce an income of £269,333 for the new financial year.

The council decided at its finance meeting to set aside £35,000 to help pay for essential repairs needed to Maesteg swimming pool, if it is asked to contribute by the borough council.

The Bridgend town council precept will also be frozen at £36.22p at Band D – which gives the council an income of £200,000.

Council leader David Unwin said that this was the fourth consecutive year that the precept has been frozen.

"We see no need for an increase, but we will still have a progressive budget," he said.

Read your GEM online at bridgend-today.co.uk or porthcawl-today.co.uk

BRIDES & GROOMS

Two sides of wedding photography

PHOTOGRAPHER Heidi Slade Adams, of Franny Adams Photography, likes to capture both classical images, and the more quirky moments of people's wedding days, as these recent shots testify.

ABOVE: Adam and Sam chose Penarth pier as a location for one of their less formal photographs.

ABOVE: A classical shot of Richard and Claire in Dyffryn Gardens.

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Sunday, 7th February, 2010
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Jimmy's imagination nets him Ferris Entertainment performing scholarship

THE winner of the GEM/Ferris Entertainment Scholarship for 2010 is teenager Jimmy Webster, who despite being confined to an electric wheelchair, delivered an imaginative audition.

Jimmy (13) heard about the scholarship from his friend Verity, who lives in Barry, and had read an article in The GEM.

Jimmy, who lives in Cardiff, said: "My mother took Verity and me along to the masterclass – I'd never done anything like acting before.

"I was amazed when I was told that I'd won the performance scholarship. For my audition I did a scene from the film Jumanji.

"I played the part of the boy called Peter. The scene seemed to work well with me in the wheelchair!"

Jimmy, a pupil at Corpus Christi High School, has congenital myasthenia – which involves voluntary muscle weakness that can lead to a lack of mobility and respiratory problems. At night, he uses a ventilator.

Jimmy's mum, Kerry, was delighted with the news of his win: "Jimmy doesn't always get the chance to do these sorts of things. For him to get the scholarship is fantastic – a real boost to his confidence."

Acting coach Peter Ferris said: "In auditions you have to do something extra in your performance in order to get yourself noticed.

"Jimmy immediately found more in the script we were working on, adding imagination and more thought to the character, both verbally and physically.

"At one specific moment in the script, he was exceptional, and it was that moment that won him his scholarship."

Peter Ferris is pictured with scholarship winner Jimmy Webster.

Peter emphasised that people with disablities can make a success in the performing arts, just like able-bodied people.

He said: "Now is a great time for actors with disabilities, with more opportunities than ever.

"I hope that this will encourage anyone who may be considering taking up acting or a career in the entertainment industry to just go for it."

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Howell's School celebrates its 150th birthday in style!

THIS year, south Wales' oldest and best-known school is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its opening.

Howell's School, Llandaff, was founded on the bequest of a Tudor merchant and the first 60 pupils, all female boarders, and 30 of them orphans, arrived on August 1, 1860.

Today it has grown to an institution of some 820 students, including boys in the sixth form college.

Almost everything about the school has changed since 1860, but it is still housed in the original buildings, which have been totally refurbished and considerably enlarged, so that it boasts excellent facilities.

The initial celebrations to mark the 150th landmark have begun with the releasing of 150 eco-friendly balloons by Junior School girls.

Major events planned during the year include a concert in St David's Hall on March 18, and a large-scale 'open afternoon and picnic' on June 23, to which everyone is invited.

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NURTURING EXCELLENCE

Holton Primary wins award

HOLTON Primary is one of the first schools in the Vale to be awarded the Welsh Assembly Government's quality standard for basic skills.

Headteacher Mr A Gill said: "The revised standard challenges schools to 'further improve outcomes so that all learners leave education with the skills necessary to fulfil their potential, become active members of the community and contribute to the prosperity of Wales (WAG).

"The rigorous assessment was carried out by the LEA and the school successfully met all five quality mark standards.

"I am delighted that we have achieved this important award; it is the result of the dedication and commitment of school staff and pupils. Literacy and numeracy skills are essential for our children's future," he added.

New project

A NEW project helping Barry youngsters plan for the future was celebrated at an event hosted by Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams.

The six-week Rathbone Cymru project, run in partnership with Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale and 14-19 Learning Pathways, supported the hardest to reach and socially excluded young people, who are long time NEET (not in education, employment or training).

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EDUCATION & TRAINING

REDUNDANCY NEED NOT RUIN YOUR LONG-TERM CAREER

BEING made redundant is never pleasant but after more than 15 years with the same company, redundancy was particularly hard for Jane.

As for many people, Jane's redundancy wasn't a surprise but, nevertheless, it was a major knock to her confidence. Careers Wales gave Jane a grant towards re-training to help her move forward in her career.

She explained:

"I was keen to get back into employment as soon as possible, and so my training needed to fit in with work commitments and my personal life.

"When I went into Pitman Training, I immediately knew it was the right place for me."

Pitman Training in Cardiff is run by Leanne Waring. "Our method of learning is completely flexible and we aim to create a relaxed and non-threatening training environment," explained Leanne. Jane is now working as a medical secretary in Cardiff.

"Deciding to learn with Pitman Training was such a good decision. I feel as if I can really progress now, because I have the right skills," she said.

For information on the range of courses on offer at Pitman Training in Cardiff, please telephone 02920 342020, or visit www.pitmancardiff.com

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www.llantwitschool.org.uk Headteacher: Dr V M Browne

Out and About with The GEM

Holiday on Ice winners

THE winners of our competition to win a pair of tickets to the February 9 show on Holiday on Ice's Spirit show at Cardiff International Arena were:

Mrs M Thomas, Porthcawl; Mrs Eira Rowley, Llantwit Major; Elin Jones, Coychurch; Judith Ricketts, Cowbridge; Anne Baxter, St Athan.

Congratulations to you all and enjoy the show!

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TV geologist's Cardiff eco talk

GEOLOGIST Professor Iain Stewart, well known for his television appearances, will be in Cardiff on January 23 to talk about his new TV series, *How Earth Made Us*.

Professor Stewart will explain that the earth is now regarded as a system which includes the atmosphere and the biosphere, as well as the geology.

He will also explain that climatic changes have not always been slow processes, they can be quite rapid events.

The talk is taking place on the 50th anniversary of the first meeting of the Geologists' Association-South Wales Group/*Cymdeithas y Daearegwyr-Grwp De Cymru,* in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Main Building, University of Cardiff, Park Place, Cardiff at 11am.

The association is celebrating its 50th anniversary on January 23.

Members include professional and amateur geologists, students, and members of the public interested in geology.

The group is a registered charity and is open to all.

Children are welcome, with accompanying parents.

For more information, there are leaflets at the National Museum Wales in Cardiff, and the website is swga.org.uk

Printmakers are on show at Penarth gallery

THE Washington Gallery in Penarth is featuring three printmakers, Sheila Clark, Judith Stroud and Joseph F Field, in an exhibition running from January 22 to February 19.

A gallery spokeswoman said:

"Sheila Clark's prints are usually based on direct observation from the beach and local areas using collage and found material to suggest the rich textural qualities associated with the environment.

"Judith Stroud is a British artist and printmaker based in her studio in Wales.

" Printmaking is her chosen medium and her original prints have been widely exhibited.

"Joseph F Field's work reflects his interests in Biblical theology, poetry and the landscape and culture of rural north Monmouthshire, where he currently lives."

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Clooney and Reitman are flying high Up In The Air

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

AFTER bursting out of the blocks with the wryly acerbic *Thank You For Smoking*, director Jason Reitman found himself handling the pressures of a smash hit when teen pregnancy comedy *Juno* went supernova.

Having delivered two assured directorial offerings with these films, Reitman's third film has attracted a similar level of praise Stateside, with award murmurings coming thick and fast.

Up In The Air tells the story of Ryan Bingham (George Clooney), a 'downsizer' whose job is to travel around the country telling people they have been fired.

When his company hires a young woman (Anna Kendrick) who believes they can do this via video-conferencing, Ryan takes her on one of his trips in an attempt to show her the error of her ways; but seeing his life through someone else's eyes soon makes Ryan reassess his lifestyle – particularly when he meets Alex (Vera Farmiga), a woman whose lifestyle is the female equivalent of Ryan's...

George Clooney is in a rich vein of form right now. The former Dr Doug Ross has shown his versatility and acting nous in such highly praised, and diverse, fare as *The Men Who Stare At Goats* and *Fantastic Mr Fox* and lighting up the otherwise muddled *Burn After Reading*.

Yet for all his good work in these films, it may be *Up In The Air* that will be looked on as Clooney's finest hour in years to come, for the star offers a performance full of charm, charisma, pathos and emotion.

It not only highlights just how skilled an actor the two-time 'world's sexiest male' can be, but also heads up an impressive cast that makes *Up In The Air* an incredible film.

It seems little surprise that Clooney has such a ball playing the character of Bingham, given there are more than a few parallels between character and actor.

However, he deserves credit for not merely offering up some light performance. Beneath the veneer of cool and charm, there's a degree of longing for a life not spent in the air that grows larger as the film progresses.

The character of Bingham is one closeted from the troubles of real life – there are no relationships he feels the need to maintain, no need to involve himself too closely in the situations of others (in one telling exchange his sister tells him he is 'invisible' to her).

Clooney's turn mines real emotion from a man whose ideal of being an island starts to wither away as he meets people who can see beyond his exterior.

These characters who start to make him see the other way of life are superbly inhabited by Anna Kendrick and Vera Farmiga.

The former casts away the limitations of the *Twilight* franchise to show her acting ability, holding her own with Clooney and offering a turn of depth and character where she could have been merely a lightly sketched cipher.

She brings real verve to her character, as does Farmiga, whose character's affinity for air travel and its perks make her a mirror of Ryan.

Sharing a wonderful playful chemistry with Clooney, Farmiga, along with Kendrick, make a perfect foil for Clooney, while still offering enough substance in their own performances to hold their own.

Having taken on co-writing duties along with Sheldon Turner, Jason Reitman doesn't run the risk of spreading himself too thinly by offering another assured directorial outing and a script that is tight and strong.

Giving the film the sheen of the numerous airport lounges Ryan visits, Reitman's direction is understated yet conveys beautifully the nuances of the script and the characterisation.

That he manages to makes Bingham's existence seem both wonderfully disengaged from society and horribly closed off from the real world shows that Reitman isn't overly keen to brandish judgement on the character and his life, something the script reinforces.

Instead, rather than lay on heavy handed redemption for the character, Reitman and Turner allow the narrative to feel realistic and unforced, leading to a climax that doesn't see the pair tie up their ending in bows.

While the film tries a touch too hard to emphasise the notion of unemployment and losing your job being a hardship (the use of real people in segments where Ryan informs them they are being let go is superfluous), it doesn't detract from what is overall a smartly made and funny film, and another huge success for both Clooney and Reitman; *Up In The Air* certainly does manage to fly high!

VERDICT – An incredible lead turn from George Clooney heads up a wonderful film, as *Up In The Air* is a film well worth seeing.

Jason Reitman's assured and confident direction, coupled with strong performances across the board make this intelligent yet breezy film truly superb. *Highly recommended.*

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Support is available for young people in schools and colleges and for young people and adults who may be unemployed, under the threat of redundancy or are in work, training or part time education.

You can get details about qualifications, opportunities to retrain, self employment, help with your CV, job application or interview technique. Advisers will also be able to tell you about sources of funding including Individual Learning Accounts Wales: you may be able to claim up to £200 towards the cost of training depending on your circumstances. If you've been recently been made redundant or are under notice of redundancy, advisers can tell you about ReAct funding which may be available to help you retrain.

Naomi builds her dream job in construction

A YOUNG female apprentice is busy building an impressive career path in an industry that is still all too often considered a 'man's world.' Naomi Jones, 17, always had a talent for design and was keen to embark on a career using her creative and practical skills. As a Year 11 pupil at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School, Barry, Naomi was offered an interview with careers adviser, Tony McLean.

Naomi said: "I went to see Tony and explained I was keen to start working towards a career after my GCSEs. At the time, I thought interior design or property development might be jobs that would make the best of my skills.

"Tony talked me through all the different options available, and suggested I might like to go along to an event called 'Girls in Construction' at Barry College, organised by ConstructionSkills.

"It wasn't a career I'd considered before, but I went along to the workshop and it really brought it to life for me. Tony also put me in touch with Bernie Marks from ConstructionSkills who suggested I go along to another event where there would be some major local employers from the construction industry attending."

It was while she was at the workshop that Naomi got chatting to Michelle Davies, Business Development Manager at Stradform in Cardiff, a division of VINCI Construction Ltd, who advised Naomi of apprenticeship opportunities with the company. Naomi was successful in her application and is now in her second year of a construction technician trainee apprenticeship with Stradform. She hopes one day to become a site manager.

Naomi Jones, apprentice construction technician with Stradform, Cardiff received advice from Careers Wales to kickstart her career.

She said: "I'm so glad I decided to take this career path. The advice and support I had from Tony was fantastic. He really helped me to focus on what I wanted from training and a future career. I'm able to use my design skills in a practical way and I'm on the first step to a really good career. I'm now an ambassador for ConstructionSkills, encouraging other girls to think about possible careers in construction."

Careers Centre
49 Holton Road
Barry CF63 4HF
Tel: 01446 410600

Careers Centre
53 Charles Street
Cardiff CF10 2GD
Tel: 029 2090 6700

Careers Advice

0800 100 900

Mobile callers please ring 029 2090 6801

careerswales.com
Careers information and advice

Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale wins awards

Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale's commitment to supporting young people who have spent time in care was recognised when the company was presented with an award for *"outstanding contribution to improving outcomes for young people leaving care."* The company was nominated for the award by young people leaving care who had received on-going careers information and advice from careers adviser Jacqui Cousins.

Careers Wales also received a National Career Award from the UK wide Institute of Careers Guidance, for research into school and college leavers not in education, employment or training - also known as NEET. The research was commissioned from consultants Cordis Bright by Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale in partnership with Cardiff Children and Young People's Partnership and the Vale of Glamorgan Young People's Partnership. As a result of the research, plans have been put into action for keeping in touch with and reducing the number of young people who are NEET.

Pupils set up mini businesses

Primary school pupils across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan are finding out what it takes to run their own business with the help of Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale Education Business Partnership (EBP).

Working in groups the children decide on a product which they can make and sell at a school fair. Anwen Phillips, EBP adviser, who helps co-ordinate the events said: "The mini enterprise programme is very popular in local schools. Pupils really enjoy the interactive way of learning, helping them to develop key skills such as problem solving, communication and decision making as well as giving them the opportunity to experience an enterprise activity."

EBP adviser Anwen Phillips and student teacher Owen Wrangham help pupils at Ysgol Pencae, Cardiff develop their team working skills as part of the mini enterprise programme, held at the end of the summer term last year.

Improvements to our services

Last year we...

- Opened our new Youth Gateway centre at 33 Charles Street to provide state-of-the-art facilities for young people needing extra help to access jobs, training or courses after leaving school or college.
- Extended our opening hours at Barry Careers Centre following customer feedback.
- Refurbished our Careers Bus to ensure we continue to take our services into the community.
- Received support from the Welsh Assembly Government to increase the number of adult guidance advisers in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan to meet the demand for our services as a result of the recession.
- Launched our Business Ambassador programme for employers and their staff interested in developing links with local schools and colleges to help raise young people's standard of achievement, improve motivation, encourage enterprise and help young people plan and prepare for the world of work
- Further developed our website www.careerswales.com for young people and their parents, adults, employers and careers professionals. A new section is also available for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

What we do ...

Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale is responsible for the delivery of:

- The statutory Careers Service (Youth Guidance Services) Youth Gateway and Education Gateway
- Cardiff and Vale Education Business Partnership (EBP)
- Adult Guidance Services
- The Learning and Careers Advice helpline in Wales

How well we do ...

Recent surveys* indicate that 95% of Year 11 students (15-16 year olds) and 86% of adults questioned in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan felt that their interview with a careers adviser had helped them with their decisions about career and learning choices.
***Careers Wales Performance Indicator Surveys, Beaufort Research**

Have your say ...

We value your opinions. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about our services, please contact:
Avril Jackson, marketing manager, Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale, 53 Charles Street, Cardiff CF10 2GD Tel: 029 2090 6700 or email: avril.jackson@cardiffandvale.org.uk

How we did in 2008/2009

GyrfaCymru Careers Wales

Activity		Achievement	% against Target
Support for students in secondary and further education in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan			
Interviews.		18,114	118%
Moving Forward Plans.		13,086	107%
Group sessions.		3,027	108%
Young people taking part in Education Gateway, a motivational programme for 14 -16 year olds and young people in college.		759	120%
Young people receiving mentoring support from Education Gateway advisers.	Interviews	2,156	128%
	Groups	1,026	119%
Work with young people with a Statement of Special Educational Need.	Transition Reviews attended	638	114%
	Learning and Skills Plans	183	111%
	Interviews	1,000	140%
	Group sessions	33	82%
Number of young people who received support for an education business activity.	Primary schools	15,580	N/A
	Secondary schools	29,697	113%
Number of work experience placements arranged.	14 -16 year olds	6,136	N/A
	16 -19 year olds	970	N/A
Number of young people taking part in business and enterprise.	12 -16 year olds	7,301	N/A
	16 -19 year olds	2,507	N/A
Number of young people receiving employer support for mentoring and individual goal setting.		1,466	N/A
Number of young people involved in setting up small business projects with employer support.	12 -16 year olds	3,892	N/A
	16 -19 year olds	1,053	N/A

Support for schools and colleges

Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale works closely with teachers and lecturers to ensure pupils and students receive high quality careers education and guidance. During the year, 44 training events were organised involving 128 teachers and associated staff. In addition, 459 primary and secondary school teachers and college lecturers were helped to find placements with employers: 111% against target.

Support for parents and guardians		
Surveys have found that parents and carers are the biggest influence on the career decisions of their children.		
Discussions with parents.	3,342	N/A
Parents evenings attended.	144	N/A
Mailings to parents of students in years 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12.	23,783	N/A
Reports to parents of Year 11 students including Moving Forward Plans.	5,111	N/A
Support for young people who have left full time education		
Interviews by careers advisers at our Centres.	3,796	119%
Interviews by careers advisers with young people with a Statement of Special Educational Need.	507	N/A
Interviews by placing assistants.	3,991	110%
Written outcomes of guidance.	4,105	104%
Number of young people placed in Youth Gateway.	554	101%
Number of young people placed into employment.	204	N/A
Number of young people placed into work-based training.	1,260	N/A
Interviews with young people on Youth Gateway.	6,754	124%
Moving Forward Plans for young people on Youth Gateway.	1,078	103%
Group sessions for young people on Youth Gateway.	4,118	80%
Youth Gateway is run by Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale and provides extra help for young people who are unsure what to do after leaving school or college or who are experiencing difficulties in finding the right opportunity.		
Support for adults		
Interviews by careers advisers	6,787	135%
of which:		
- Adults interviewed who were unemployed	2,614	N/A
- Adults interviewed under notice of redundancy	1,875	N/A
Interviews with adults in association with the Welsh Refugee Council.	135	N/A
Interviews by information assistants.	3,235	109%
Moving Forward Plans.	5,183	104%
Group sessions.	132	220%
Adult Guidance Services also provides support for people on New Deal.		
Learning and Careers Advice national helpline 0800 100 500		
Last year 39,602 calls and 2,352 emails to the helpline were received from across Wales, an increase of 24% on the previous year.		
Working with employers		
Visits to employers.	1,886	108%
Job vacancies notified.	369	N/A
Employers supporting education business activities.	3,251	127%

Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. The cost of our services for the year 1st April 2008 - 31st March 2009 was approximately £2.49 per month per household in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Investor in People

Sponsored by Welsh Assembly Government

Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales

Caerdydd a'r Fro

Datblygu pobl drwy gynllunio gyrfa gydol oes

Gyrfa Cymru

Yma i'ch helpu!

Mewn gwasgfa economaidd gall meddwl am eich gyrfa ymddangos yn ddigalon. Eto yn y cyfnod anodd yma, daw cynllunio gyrfa yn bwysicach nag erioed.

Faint bynnag yw'ch oed neu beth bynnag eich sefyllfa, gwnewch yn siŵr eich bod yn gwneud y gorau o'ch hunan drwy ddatblygu eich sgiliau a gwella eich cymwysterau. Cymerwch y cam cyntaf drwy gysylltu â Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro i gael gwybodaeth a chyngor di-dâl, annibynnol a diduedd ar yrfaoedd.

Mae cefnogaeth ar gael i bobl ifanc mewn ysgolion a cholegau ac i bobl ifanc ac oedolion a all fod yn ddi-waith, dan fygythiad colli eu swydd neu mewn gwaith, hyfforddiant neu addysg ran-amser.

Medrwch gael manylion am gymwysterau, cyfleoedd ailhyfforddi, hunangyflogaeth, help gyda'ch CV, cais am swydd neu dechneg cyfweliad. Gall cynghorwyr hefyd ddweud wrthych am ffynonellau o gyllid yn cynnwys Cyfrifon Dysgu Unigol Cymru: efallai y gallwch hawlio tuag at £200 tuag at gost hyfforddi yn dibynnu ar eich amgylchiadau. Os ydych wedi colli eich swydd yn ddiweddar neu wedi cael hysbysiad y caiff eich swydd ei dileu, gall cynghorwyr ddweud wrthych am gyllid ReAct a all fod ar gael i'ch helpu i ailhyfforddi.

Naomi yn adeiladu ei swydd ddelfrydol

Mae menyw ifanc sy'n brentis yn brysur yn adeiladu llwybr gyrfa rhagorol mewn diwydiant sy'n rhy aml o lawer yn dal i gael ei ystyried yn 'fyd dynion.' Roedd gan Naomi Jones, 17, bob amser dalent ar gyfer dylunio ac yn awyddus i gael gyrfa yn defnyddio ei sgiliau creadigol ac ymarferol. Fel disgybl Blwyddyn 11 yn Ysgol Gyfun Bryn Hafren, y Barri, cafodd Naomi gynnig cyfweliad gyda'r cynghorydd gyrfaoedd Tony McLean.

Dywedodd Naomi: "Fe es i weld Tony ac esbonio mod i'n awyddus i gychwyn gweithio tuag at yrfa ar ôl fy TGAU. Ar y pryd, roeddwn yn meddwl mai dylunio mewnol neu ddatblygu eiddo oedd y swyddi fyddai'n gwneud y defnydd gorau o fy sgiliau.

"Siaradodd Tony am yr holl wahanol opsiynau oedd ar gael ac awgrymu y medrwn hoffi mynd i ddigwyddiad 'Merched mewn Adeiladu' yng Ngholeg y Barri, a drefnwyd gan SgiliauAdeiladu.

"Doeddwn i ddim wedi ystyried hynny fel gyrfa o'r blaen, ond es draw i'r gweithdy a ddaeth â phopeth yn fyw i mi. Fe wnaeth Tony hefyd fy rhoi mewn cysylltiad gyda Bernie Marks o SgiliauAdeiladu a awgrymodd mod i'n mynd draw i ddigwyddiad arall lle byddai rhai cyflogwyr lleol pwysig o'r diwydiant adeiladu yn bresennol."

Pan oedd yn y gweithdy cychwynnodd Naomi sgwrsio gyda Michelle Davies, Rheolydd Datblygu Busnes Stradform yng Nghaerdydd, adran o VINCI Construction Cyf, a ddywedodd wrth

Cafodd Naomi Jones, prentis technegydd adeiladu gyda Stradform, Caerdydd gyngor gan Gyrfa Cymru i roi cychwyn da i'w gyrfa.

Naomi am y cyfleoedd prentisiaeth oedd ar gael gyda'r cwmni. Bu cais Naomi yn llwyddiannus ac mae bellach yn ail flwyddyn prentisiaeth hyfforddi technegydd adeiladu gyda Stradform. Mae'n gobeithio dod yn rheolydd safle ryw ddydd.

Dywedodd: "Rwyf mor falch i mi benderfynu cymryd y llwybr gyrfa yma. Roedd y cyngor a'r gefnogaeth a gefais gan Tony yn wych. Fe wnaeth wirioneddol fy helpu i feddwl am yr hyn roeddwn eisiau o hyfforddiant a gyrfa yn y dyfodol. Rwy'n medru defnyddio fy sgiliau dylunio mewn ffordd ymarferol ac rwyf ar y cam cyntaf i yrfa gwirioneddol dda. Rwy'n awr yn llysgennad i SgiliauAdeiladu, ac yn annog merched eraill i feddwl am yrfaoedd posibl yn y maes adeiladu."

Canolfan Gyrfaoedd
49 Heol Holton
Y Barri CF63 4HF
Ffôn: 01446 410600

Canolfan Gyrfaoedd
53 Heol Siarl
Caerdydd CF10 2GD
Ffôn: 029 20290 6700

Cyngor Gyrfaoedd

0800 100 900

Galwch 029 2090 6801 o ffôn symudol

gyrfacymru.com
Gwybodaeth a chyngor gyrfaoedd

Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro yn ennill gwobrau

Cafodd ymnwymiad Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro i gefnogi pobl ifanc a dreuliodd amser mewn gofal ei gydnabod pan gyflwynwyd gwobr am *"canlyniad rhagorol i wella canlyniadau ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn gadael gofal"* i'r cwmni. Enwebwyd y cwmni ar gyfer y wobr gan bobl ifanc yn gadael gofal oedd wedi derbyn gwybodaeth a chyngor parhaus ar yrfaoedd gan y cynghorydd gyrfaoedd Jacqui Cousins.

Derbyniodd Gyrfa Cymru hefyd Wobr Gyrfa Genedlaethol gan y Sefydliad Arweiniad Gyrfaoedd sy'n gweithredu ar draws y Deyrnas Unedig, am ymchwil i ymadawyr ysgol a choleg nad ydynt mewn addysg, cyflogaeth neu hyfforddiant - a gaiff hefyd eu galw yn NEET. Comisiynwyd yr ymchwil gan yr ymgynghorwyr Cordis Bright gan Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro mewn partneriaeth gyda Phartneriaeth Plant a Phobl Ifanc Caerdydd a Phartneriaeth Pobl Ifanc Bro Morgannwg. Fel canlyniad i'r ymchwil, cafodd cynlluniau eu rhoi ar waith i gadw mewn cysylltiad â phobl ifanc NEET a gostwng eu nifer.

Disgyblion yn sefydlu mini-fusnesau

Mae disgyblion ysgol gynradd ar draws Caerdydd a Bro Morgannwg yn canfod beth sydd ei angen i redeg eu busnes eu hunain gyda help Partneriaeth Addysg Busnes Caerdydd a'r Fro (PAB).

Gan weithio mewn grwpiau, mae'r plant yn penderfynu ar gynnyrch y medrant ei wneud a'i werthu mewn ffair ysgol. Dywedodd Anwen Phillips, cynghorydd PAB, sy'n helpu i gydlynu'r digwyddiadau: "Mae'r rhaglen mini-fenter yn boblogaidd iawn mewn ysgolion lleol. Mae disgyblion yn gwirioneddol fwynhau'r ffordd rhyngweithiol o ddysgu, gan eu helpu i ddatblygu sgiliau allweddol megis datrys problemau, cyfathrebu a gwneud penderfyniadau yn ogystal â rhoi cyfle iddynt brofi gweithgaredd menter."

Anwen Phillips, cynghorydd PAB ac Owen Wrangham, darpar athro yn helpu disgyblion yn Ysgol Pencae, Caerdydd i ddatblygu eu sgiliau gweithio tîm fel rhan o'r rhaglen mini-fenter a gynhaliwyd ddiwedd tymor yr haf y llynedd.

Gwelliannau i'n gwasanaethau

Y llynedd gwnaethom ...

- Agor ein Canolfan Porth Ieuenctid newydd yn 33 Heol Siarl i roi cyfleusterau o'r math diweddaraf i bobl ifanc sydd angen help ychwanegol i gael mynediad i swyddi, hyfforddiant neu gyrsiau ar ôl gadael yr ysgol neu goleg.
- Ymestyn ein horiau agor yng Nghanolfan Gyrfaoedd y Barri yn dilyn adborth gan gwsmeriaid.
- Ailwampio ein Bws Gyrfaoedd i sicrhau ein bod yn parhau i fynd â'n gwasanaethau i'r gymuned.
- Derbyn cefnogaeth gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i gynyddu nifer y cynghorwyr arweiniad oedolion yng Nghaerdydd a Bro Morgannwg i ateb y galw am ein gwasanaethau fel canlyniad i'r dirwasgiad.
- Lansio ein rhaglen Llysgennad Busnes ar gyfer cyflogwyr a'u staff sydd â diddordeb mewn datblygu cysylltiadau gydag ysgolion a cholegau lleol i helpu cynyddu safon cyrhaeddiad pobl ifanc, gwella cymhelliant, annog menter a helpu pobl ifanc i gynllunio a pharatoi ar gyfer bywyd gwaith.
- Datblygu ymhellach ein gwefan www.gyrfacymru.com ar gyfer pobl ifanc, oedolion, cyflogwyr a swyddogion gyrfaoedd. Mae adran newydd hefyd ar gael ar gyfer pobl ifanc gydag anawsterau dysgu a/neu anableddau.

Yr hyn a wnawn ...

Mae Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro yn gyfrifol am gyflwyno:

- Y Gwasanaeth Gyrfaoedd statudol (Gwasanaethau Arweiniad Oedolion), Porth Ieuenctid a Porth Addysg
- Partneriaeth Addysg Busnes Caerdydd a'r Fro (PAB)
- Gwasanaethau Arweiniad Oedolion
- Llinell gymorth Cyngor Dysgu a Gyrfaoedd yng Nghymru

Pa mor dda y gwnawn ...

Dengys arolygon diweddar* y teimlai 95% o fyfyrwyr Blwyddyn 11 (15-16 oed) a 86% o oedolion a holwyd yng Nghaerdydd a Bro Morgannwg fod eu cyfweliad gyda chynghorydd gyrfaoedd wedi'u helpu gyda'u penderfyniadau am ddewisiadau gyrfa a dysgu.

*Arolygon Dangosydd Perfformiad Gyrfaoedd Cymru, Beaufort Research

Dweud eich barn ..

Rydym yn gwerthfawrogi eich barn. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiynau, sylwadau neu awgrymiadau am ein gwasanaethau, cysylltwch ag:
Avril Jackson, Rheolydd Marchnata, Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro, 53 Heol Siarl, Caerdydd CF10 2GD Ffôn: 029 2090 6700 neu e-bost: avril.jackson@cardiffandvale.org.uk.

Sut y gwnaethom yn 2008/2009

Gweithgaredd		Cyflawniad	% yn erbyn y targed
Cefnogaeth i fyfyrwyr mewn addysg uwchradd ac addysg bellach yng Nghaerdydd a Bro Morgannwg			
Cyfweliadau.		18,114	118%
Cynlluniau Symud Ymlaen.		13,086	107%
Sesiynau gnlp.		3,027	108%
Pobl ifanc yn cymryd rhan yn Porth Addysg, rhaglen cymhelliant i rai 14-16 oed a phobl ifanc mewn coleg.		759	120%
Pobl ifanc yn derbyn cefnogaeth mentora gan gynghorwyr Porth Addysg.	Cyfweliadau	2,156	128%
	Grwpiau	1,026	119%
Gwaith gyda phobl ifanc gyda Datganiad o Angen Addysgol Arbennig.	Cyfweliadau Pontio a fynychwyd	638	114%
	Cynlluniau Dysgu a Sgiliau	183	111%
	Cyfweliadau	1,000	140%
	Sesiynau grwp	33	82%
Pobl ifanc a dderbyniodd gefnogaeth ar gyfer gweithgaredd addysg busnes	Ysgolion cynradd	15,580	D/B
	Ysgolion uwchradd	29,697	113%
Nifer lleoliadau profiad gwaith a drefnwyd.	14-16 oed	6,136	D/B
	16-19 oed	970	D/B
Nifer y bobl ifanc yn cymryd rhan mewn busnes a menter.	12-16 oed	7,301	D/B
	16-19 oed	2,507	D/B
Nifer y bobl ifanc yn derbyn cefnogaeth cyflogwyr ar gyfer mentora a gosod nodau unigol.		1,466	D/B
Nifer y bobl ifanc yn ymwneud â sefydlu prosiectau busnes bach gyda chefnogaeth cyflogwyr.	12-16 oed	3,892	D/B
	16-19 oed	1,053	D/B
Cefnogaeth i ysgolion a cholegau			
Mae Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro yn gweithio'n agos gydag athrawon a darlithwyr i sicrhau fod disgyblion a myfyrwyr yn derbyn addysg ac arweiniad gyrfaoedd ansawdd uchel. Trefnwyd 44 o ddigwyddiadau hyfforddi yn ystod y flwyddyn yn cynnwys 128 o athrawon a staff cysylltiedig. Cafodd 459 o athrawon ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd a darlithwyr coleg hefyd eu helpu i ganfod lleoliadau gyda chyflogwyr: 111% yn erbyn y targed.			
Cefnogaeth i rieni a gwarcheidwaid			
Canfu arolygon mai rhieni a gofalwyr yw'r dylanwad mwyaf ar benderfyniadau gyrfa eu plant.			
Trafodaethau gyda rhieni.		3,342	D/B
Nosweithiau rhieni a fynychwyd.		144	D/B
Llythyrau at rieni myfyrwyr ym mlynyddoedd 7, 9, 10, 11 a 12.		23,783	D/B
Adroddiadau i rieni myfyrwyr Blwyddyn 11 yn cynnwys cynlluniau Symud Ymlaen.		5,111	D/B
Cefnogaeth i bobl ifanc sydd wedi gadael addysg lawn-amser			
Cyfweliadau gan gynghorwyr gyrfaoedd yn ein Canolfannau.		3,796	119%
Cyfweliadau gan gynghorwyr gyrfaoedd gyda phobl ifanc gyda Datganiad o Angen Addysgol Arbennig.		507	D/B
Cyfweliadau gan gymhorthwyr lleoli.		3,991	110%
Canlyniadau arweiniad ysgrifenedig.		4,105	104%
Nifer pobl ifanc a ddodwyd yn y Porth Ieuenctid.		554	101%
Nifer pobl ifanc a ddodwyd mewn cyflogaeth.		204	D/B
Nifer pobl ifanc a ddodwyd mewn hyfforddiant seiliedig mewn gwaith.		1,260	D/B
Cyfweliadau gyda phobl ifanc yn y Porth Ieuenctid.		6,754	124%
Cynlluniau Symud Ymlaen ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn y Porth Ieuenctid.		1,078	103%
Sesiynau grwp ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn y Porth Ieuenctid.		4,118	80%
Caiff Porth Ieuenctid ei redeg gan Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro ac mae'n rhoi help ychwanegol i bobl ifanc sy'n ansicr beth i'w wneud ar ôl gadael yr ysgol neu coleg sy'n ei chael yn anodd dod o hyd i'r cyfle cywir.			
Cefnogaeth i oedolion			
Cyfweliadau gan gynghorwyr gyrfaoedd.		6,767	135%
Dhonynt:			
- Cyfweliadau gydag oedolion di-waith.		2,614	D/B
- Cyfweliadau gydag oedolion a gafodd rybudd dileu swydd.		1,875	D/B
Cyfweliadau gydag oedolion mewn cysylltiad â Chyngor Ffoaduriaid Cymru.		136	D/B
Cyfweliadau gan gymhorthwyr gwybodaeth.		3,235	108%
Cynlluniau Symud Ymlaen.		5,183	104%
Sesiynau gnlp.		132	220%
Mae Gwasanaethau Arweiniad Oedolion hefyd yn darparu cefnogaeth ar gyfer pobl ar y Fargen Newydd.			
Llinell gymorth genedlaethol Cyngor Dysgu a Gyrfaoedd 0800 100 900			
Y llynedd derbyniodd y llinell gymorth 39,062 galwad ffôn a 2,352 negas e-bost, cynnydd o 24% ar y flwyddyn flaenorol.			
Gweithio gyda chyflogwyr			
Ymweliadau i gyflogwyr.		1,886	108%
Swyddi gwag a hysbyswyd.		369	D/B
Cyflogwyr yn cefnogi gweithgareddau addysg busnes.		3,251	127%

Ariennir Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Roedd cost ein gwasanaethau am y flwyddyn 1 Ebrill 2008 - 31 Mawrth 2009 tua £2.49 y mis i bob aelwyd yng Nghaerdydd a Bro Morgannwg.

SECOND TEAM MATCH-UP IS A REAL THRILLER!

PORTHCAWL 2nds 20
PONTYCYMMER 2nds 17

WITH both clubs' First XV matches victims of the weather, the attention turned to the Second XV league match, which was played at Rest Bay, due to a water-logged South Road pitch.

The match was played in a great spirit, with both sides showing an eagerness to play as expansive a game as possible, despite the intermittent rain and wind.

Porthcawl took the lead with a penalty from winger Gareth Lloyd, who then proceeded to slot over his second, minutes later for a 6-0 lead.

Pontycymmer showed glimpses of strong attacking play and when they scored a converted try, it was no more than their efforts deserved, and they led 6-7 at the break.

Lloyd got his hat-trick penalty early in the second half for the Seaweeds before Pont's second converted try swung the match back in their favour at 9-14.

The score of the match came halfway through the second spell as Porthcawl flanker Luke Wooton latched onto a loose ball inside his own half before kicking ahead and chasing his kick, with the ball sitting up beautifully for him to re-gather and sprint over for a superb individual try to level the scores at 14-apiece.

Tim Richards then took over kicking duties from Lloyd and slotted a penalty to edge the Seaweeds ahead once again, but Pontycymmer responded with a similar effort with time almost up, for 17-all.

With one final flourish, the home pack gained a good position in the Pont half and Richards coolly slotted what proved to be the match-winning penalty for the home side.

Coach Ian MacDonald was thrilled with the effort of his men, ably led by skipper James Wheatley who had a fine match.

Former Welsh star Nadine starts the search for local talent as...

Pencoed club launches women's rugby section

LEFT: Back row (left to right): Rebecca Pope, Shauna Blake, Hannah Young, Hannah Brunskill front:- Jody Parsons, Michelle Halse, Sarah Hinton, Sophie Williams.

A SUCCESSFUL women's rugby development day was held recently at Pencoed RFC under coach and former Welsh women's international Nadine Griffiths.

The girls/women in attendance were given a further boost when current Welsh internationals, prop forward Hannah Roberts and wing threequarter Heledd Stevens, came along to help at the session.

In view of the recent bad weather, the second session was held in the Pencoed Comprehensive School gymnasium, and again proved most productive.

Training sessions will now take place on a weekly basis every Sunday, when prospective players should meet at Pencoed RFC clubhouse for 2pm.

In particular, 15-18 year olds are needed to increase the 18-and-under squad numbers, though all ages and abilities are welcome.

A structured training programme will now take place, with qualified coaches ensuring skill progression, and offering advice on technique.

Organised social events for the players and friends have also been arranged for the forthcoming months.

It is anticipated an 18-and-under friendly will take place on Easter Sunday (April 4) against club visitors Kettering RFC (Northants) at the Recreation Ground.

This will be a momentous occasion, which should not be missed by players or supporters, as this will be the first organised match between two women's sides in the history of the club.

Of course, there is the added spice of a Wales v England clash!

In the longer term, there is the opportunity for the aspiring player to progress to regional, and who knows, national level !

Come on girls, be a part of this ambitious women's rugby section at Pencoed Rugby Football Club. No experience is necessary.

TR

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Double header brings mixed fortunes for Athletic under-9s

FINALLY, the pitches were playable and Bridgend Athletic under-9s were able to play some rugby after a five-week break.

The fixture was originally away against Rumney, but they were unable to play on their home ground, so the fixture was re-arranged, for them to come down to us.

The squad turned up and were raring to go, but Rumney did not show. Luckily, Bridgend Sports were home against Briton Ferry and were more than happy to play a round robin fixture.

In the first game, the Ath Greens took on Bridgend Sports. The Sports started off the stronger, scored the first try and were looking confident.

No excuses (it was the same for both sides) but it was the Ath who were looking more rusty. However, after a couple of phases, they were back in the swing of things and they scored next, from a driving run from Teo Fillis.

The game was proving to be a tough battle, with both sides cancelling each other out. There was one change in this half, due to an injury to Jade Thomas, so Louis King took to the field and made an instant impact, with some fine tackling. The half-time score was 1-1.

The second half was a little different, with the Ath stepping up a gear and starting to dominate play. Bridgend Sports were trying their hardest to stop the Ath, but something had to give and finally it did. The Ath moved the ball through hand and it was Connor Fabian who crossed for the second try.

With the Ath regaining possession from the re-start in their own 22, they cleared their lines with a fine kick which found touch.

Sports then took a quick throw-in but this was read to perfection by Gwilym John, who made a fine smother tackle, taking the ball out of the Sports player's grasp and racing away to score.

With play now going the Ath's way and the forwards and backs gelling, it was not long before they scored their fourth and final try, after another strong run from Teo Fillis.

Final score: Bridgend Athletic 4, Bridgend Sports 1.

Team: Gwilym John (captain), Jack Obbard, Jade Thomas, Thomas Anthony, Teo Fillis, Daffydd Beach, Jamie Marshall, Connor Fabian, Daniel O'Sullivan and Kasari Mehta. Replacement: Louis King.

Player of the match went to Gwilym John, for an all round outstanding game.

Briton Ferry

The second game saw Ath Yellows take on Briton Ferry; the coaches knew this was going to be a tough encounter after watching Ferry beat Sports in their match.

The Ath players were trying their hardest straight from the start, by putting in good tackles.

Ferry were putting some nice passes together and scored two consecutive tries. Taine Waite suffered an injury, so Jack Obbard replaced him and once again this made an impact.

The Ath Yellows seemed to up their work rate and were defending well. On any other day this would have worked to their advantage but not today. Ferry were much too strong and they managed to notch up two further tries in the half, making it 0-4 to Ferry.

In the second half, a few more changes were made, and this made a difference. The Ath players were defending like true gladiators, only allowing the Ferry to score one more try in this half but they had a big task ahead of them if they wanted close the gap.

Ath threw the ball around and eventually scored a try through Thomas Anthony. They pressed once more and were trying to score further tries, but time was against them and the final whistle denied them. Briton Ferry deserved to be outright winners, they were a well-drilled side.

Final score: Bridgend Ath 1, Briton Ferry 5.

Team: Taine Waite, Brandyn Fooks, Jade Thomas, Louis King, Ffion Revil, Christopher Hart (captain), Charles Creffield, Megan Webb, Josh Tidy, William Goodall. Replacements: Jack Obbard, Thomas Anthony, Gwilym John, Connor Fabian, Daffydd Beach and Kasri Mehta.

There was a third game, once more against Bridgend Sports, with two separate halves.

This time the Ath fielded two different sides in each half.

In the first half, the Ath Yellows took to the field. They put up a fine battle against a strong Sports side, who won the half 1-3, with the Ath try coming from Charles Creffield, after a determined run.

In the second half, the side was changed completely with the Ath Greens up for the challenge. This was a much closer half.

Ath struck first, with a powerful run from Teo Fillis. Sports scored one of their own, before Thomas Anthony struck for the Ath.

Yes, once again Sports hit back with another try but it was the Ath who had the final say, with Connor Fabian crossing the line. It was the Ath who came out winners in this half, 3-2.

Player of the match for the last two games went to Josh Tidy, who showed tremendous strength for his size, against much bigger opposition.

Also picking up an award was Jade Thomas, who recently scored her 100th try for the Ath. Well done, keep them coming Jade.

PO

Jade Thomas, who recently scored her 100th try for Bridgend Athletic.

Bridgend Athletic's mini teams entertain

AFTER a five-week break due to Christmas and the weather, Rumney came to Newbridge Fields.

The Bridgend Athletic under-7s started off the games and it was as if they hadn't been away. Both sides played good rugby and it was Rumney that opened the scoring with a good run down the line for a try.

The first half was all about defence and both sides worked hard in stopping each other from scoring.

Rumney scored another before the half-time whistle, which left the Ath trailing with lots to do.

The second half saw Rumney score first again, but the Ath hit straight back with a good try by Jordan Gittins and this lifted the players.

Rumney scored again through a loose pass by the Ath which again opened a three-try lead. From the restart, the Ath came straight back deep into Rumney territory and Jordan Gittins scored his second from some good passing by the young Ath side.

With time running out, Callum Taylor squeezed in to score the Ath's third try, and his first of the season, to make the game very close indeed. The defence by Rumney held firm for the last couple of plays, and on the final whistle Rumney only just came out on top.

Final score: Bridgend Athletic 3 Rumney 4

Game two

The second game was just as entertaining as the first, with both sides scoring some fantastic tries, 10 in all. Try scorers for the Ath were Daniel Elias, Ryley Howells, Jordan Gittins, Thomas Lewis and Euan Rees.

On the final whistle, the scores were tied at five tries apiece and finished off a good morning's rugby for the under-7s.

Player of the match went to Connor Lees for a solid all-round performance.

Under-8s (game one)

Athletic under-8s also played two games of rugby and they showed great determination throughout.

Both sides worked hard in defence at the start but it was the Ath who opened the scoring with a good try by Isaac Watkins.

Rumney hit straight back and showed how straight running and good support pays off with a well-deserved equaliser.

The Ath stepped up the pace and scored three more tries in the first half through Oliver Raynor (two) and Mason Edwards.

The second half was a well-balanced contest with both sides attacking and counter attacking. Considering neither team had played for five weeks, the rugby was top quality.

The Ath scored first in the second half through Dewi Harding, followed by Rumney, who scored straight from the restart.

A loose pass by the Ath let Rumney back in and they raced up the field to score their third. With time nearly up, and on the final play of the game, Dewi Harding squeezed over for his second and finished off the game.

Final score: Bridgend Athletic 6 Rumney 3.

Game two again saw a fantastic display by both sides, with 16 tries being scored. Rumney and the Ath really went for it with end to end rugby.

Try scorers for the Ath were Mason Edwards (five), Archie Burnett, Isaac Watkins, Dewi Harding and Sam Ralph.

Final score: Athletic 9 Rumney 7.

Player of the match went to Sam Ralph for a good solid performance.

AB

No 'ring rust' for Pencoed under-12s

PENCOED under-12s were due to welcome Bridgend Sports to the Verlands at the weekend but, due to water-loggged pitches, the fixture was hastily rearranged away at the Sports, who thankfully had a playable pitch.

To accommodate both large squads, it was agreed to play three 20-minute periods.

Despite no game time or training for more than four weeks, both teams started surprisingly well. Pencoed, however, soon began to get the upper hand and an early try from Lewis Butler opened the scoring.

The visitors went on to dominate the first period, scoring a further three tries through Luke Bevan, Rhys Butler and a second from Lewis Butler. Two conversions were added by Connor Goldsworthy and Luke Bevan to give Pencoed a 0-24 lead after the first 20.

Pencoed made numerous changes for the second period, losing a little continuity, but managed to run in another three unanswered tries through Rhys Butler, Lewis Butler and Connor Goldsworthy. Jacob Lloyd added a conversion to take the score to 0-41 at the end of the second period.

The Sports took the spoils in the final period, scoring a converted try and, although Pencoed were camped in the home team's 22 for long periods, they were unable to capitalise due to a resolute defensive effort from the hosts.

Final score: Bridgend Sports 7, Pencoed 41

Solid performances were put in by numerous players but it was James Thomas who sneaked the man-of-the-match award with a very committed display.

Many thanks to the Sports for hosting the fixture last minute as we were all desperate for some rugby!

SB

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Family Notices

EVANS
Colin Lewis

After a short illness at the Princess of Wales Hospital on the 14th January, 2010, Colin of Llantwit Major, dearly loved husband of the late Dilys and loving father of Huw, Gwyn and Alun. Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in Glyntaff Crematorium on Friday, 29th January at 10.30am. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to RAF Benevolent Fund c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

DEERE Illtyd

"Our Heart still aches in sadness,
and secret tears flow.
What it meant to lose you,
No-one will ever know."
Always remembered with love.
Forever missed, Elsie & family.

TURNER Keith

Suddenly on 13th January 2010, son of Jack and the late Vera, father of Katie and brother of Anita, John, Janet and Nikki. Funeral Service to take place in The Chapel of A.G. Adams and Sons, Gladstone Road, Barry on 1st February 2010 at 2.00pm. Thereafter, cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm.
Family flowers only please but donations may be sent to PDSA c/o the Funeral Directors.

ASHCROFT
Hilda

In her 79th year, peacefully at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on January 8th, 2010, Hilda, loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Hilda will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by all family and friends. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday January 22nd, service and cremation 1.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired to Cancer Research Wales or Dogs Trust both c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

Joseph Anthony
04.12.1921 - 29.12.2009

Peter, Ray, Katina and family would like to thank everyone for their kind support and expressions of sympathy at the funeral of Joseph Francis Anthony on Monday January 11.
Our sincere thanks to Father Maher, W James Funeral Directors and everyone involved in the moving service.
Many thanks for all donations towards the RNLI.

Public Notice

Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd

Hysbyseb ynghylch cais am drwydded amgylcheddol dan Reoliadau Trwyddedu Amgylcheddol (Cymru a Lloegr) 2007

Enw'r ymgeisydd: Rob Morris Environmental Ltd

Rhif y cais: EA/EPR/FP3092SW/A001 (EAWML 101246)

Math o gyfleuster a reoleiddir: Cyfleuster Ailgylchu Teiars Gwastraff

Cyfeiriad y cyfleuster a reoleiddir: Uned 18, Ystâd Fasnachol Llandŵ, Llandŵ, Y Bont-faen, De Morgannwg, CF71 7PB

Mae Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd wedi cael cais gan Rob Morris Environmental Ltd am Drwydded Amgylcheddol dan y Rheoliadau.

Caiff y wybodaeth hon ei chadw mewn cofrestrau yn y lleoliadau canlynol: Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri, CF63 4RU a Maes Newydd, Llandarsi, Port Talbot, SA10 6JQ.

Gallwch archwilio'r cofrestrau hyn yn rhad ac am ddim yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol (9am-5pm o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener). Gallwch gael copïau o ddogfennau sydd yn y gofrestr, ac efallai y bydd angen codi ffi i dalu am gostau gwneud copïau.

Rhaid i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd benderfynu a ddylid caniatáu neu wrthod caniatáu'r cais. Os bydd yn caniatáu'r cais, rhaid iddo benderfynu pa amodau ddylai gael eu cynnwys yn y drwydded. Dylid cyflwyno unrhyw sylwadau'n ysgrifenedig cyn pen 20 diwrnod gwaith i ddyddiad cyhoeddi'r hysbyseb hon, trwy eu hanfon i'r cyfeiriad canlynol: The Environment Agency, Permitting Support Centre, Environment Permit Team, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WF.

Gellir dod o hyd i arweiniad ar wneud penderfyniadau dan y Rheoliadau trwy droi at ein gwefan, www.environment-agency.gov.uk. Mae'r arweiniad dan sylw'n esbonio pa ffactorau sy'n berthnasol i'n penderfyniad.
Dylech nodi bod yn rhaid i unrhyw sylwadau a ddaw i law gael eu cynnwys fel rheol yn y gofrestr gyhoeddus. Os nad ydych am i'ch sylwadau ymddangos yn y gofrestr gyhoeddus, dylech gyflwyno cais sy'n nodi hynny.

Environment Agency

Advertisement of an application for an environmental permit under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007

Name of applicant: Rob Morris Environmental Ltd

Application number: EA/EPR/FP3092SW/A001 (EAWML 101246)

Type of regulated facility: Waste Tyre Recycling Facility.

Address of regulated facility: Unit 18, Llandow Trading Estate, Llandow, Cowbridge, S Glamorgan, CF71 7PB

The Environment Agency has received an application for an Environmental Permit under the Regulations from Rob Morris Environmental Ltd.

This information is held in registers at the following locations: Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU and Maes Newydd, Llandarcy, Port Talbot, SA10 6JQ.

You can inspect these registers free of charge during normal office hours (9am-5pm, Monday to Friday). You may obtain a copy of documents on the register. A charge may be made to cover the costs of copying.

The Environment Agency must decide whether to grant or refuse the application. If it grants the application, it must decide what conditions should be included in the permit. Any comments should be made in writing by 20 working days from the date of the advertisement's publication to The Environment Agency, Permitting Support Centre, Environment Permit Team, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WF.

Guidance on decision-making under the Regulations can be found at www.environment-agency.gov.uk. This guidance explains what factors are relevant to our determination.

Please note that any comments we receive must normally be placed on the public register. If you do not want your representation to appear on the public register, you should make a request to this effect.

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BRYNCETHIN JUNIOR RUGBY ROUNDUP

Under-8s fly the flag as the Zebras provide a stern test

AFTER more than a month without a game due to the freezing weather conditions, Bryncethin under-8s played host to 'The Zebras' for their first game of 2010.

Despite a heavy pitch and both sides having had a long lay-off, the two sides equally contributed to produce an entertaining and competitive game of tag rugby.

With the defences on top in the early stages, it was the Bryncethin youngsters who broke the deadlock after the Treorchy line was stretched by runs from Sean Batchelor and Kane Walters. Jake Whitefield collected a pass in space before sprinting clear to cross for a try.

Treorchy reacted almost immediately with direct running and handling for a try as Holly Morgan and Josh Nuth just failed to claim the crucial tag. The half then ended with the score line even at 1-1.

Bryncethin started the second half determined to reclaim the lead. Strong direct running and an excellent break by Ifan Hunnam created space behind the Treorchy defence.

Rhys Cawley collected the pass and sidestepped his way through the covering players, before finishing off with a score in the corner.

Treorchy again came back strongly after conceding and scored a well-worked try to bring the score line level again and ensure that the game continued as a close and compelling contest.

At the next attacking opportunity, the Bryncethin team looked to increase the game tempo and work the ball wide to find space down the wing. This stretched the defence for Ifan Hunnam to exploit, as he finished off the move by cutting swiftly inside to dart through unopposed.

Outstanding defensive work by Shea Francis (on his eighth birthday), Morgan Hughes and Thomas Bassett ensured that Bryncethin repelled the next Treorchy attack. With the space closed down, the Bryncethin defensive line held firm to claim the visitors' tags.

The Bryncethin scoring was then completed following a superb break by Jake Whitefield. After collecting a pass on the halfway line from Rhys Cawley, he raced around the covering defenders to cross in the corner and seal the deserved 4-2 victory.

Man-of-the-match: This week's stand-out performance award went to Jake Whitefield for his all-round commitment in both attack and defence, in particular his superb support play which resulted in his brace of tries, well done!

Match day squad: Shea Francis (captain), Thomas Bassett, Shaun Batchelor, Rhys Cawley, Morgan Hughes, Ifan Hunnam, Holly Morgan, Josh Nuth, Kane Walters, Jake Whitefield.

UNDER-10s

Treorchy proved to be a stiff test for the Bryncethin under-10s.

Two early tries were scored by Treorchy before Bryncethin got into their stride. Then, excellent work by both the forwards and backs gave Dafydd Evans a chance to break the Treorchy defence and go over in the corner.

Changes made by Treorchy gave them an extra edge over an already tired Bryncethin defence.

Despite the defeat, there were an number of stand out performances from Bryncethin.

Final score: **Bryncethin 7 Treorchy 24.**

Man-of-the-match: Ryan Lovell.

Match day squad: Emyr Hunnam (captain), Dafydd Evans, Emyr Watkins, Ryan Lovell, Ryan Blake, Callum Francis, Morgan Tarr, Aaron Jones, Iwan Veasey and Gethyn Napper.

UNDER-11s

With a weakened side through illness and absentees, the remaining Bryncethin under-11 squad members were made to work extremely hard in defence against a very strong Treorchy side.

Even with big tackles, the Bryncethin youngsters were unable to keep Treorchy from scoring. The Bryncethin team deserve an enormous amount of credit for never letting their heads drop.

An opportunist try following an interception by William Blake wasn't enough to keep up with the well-organised Treorchy squad.

Final score: **Bryncethin 7 Treorchy 49.**

Man-of-the-match: Sam Harding for his sheer determination in attack and defence.

Match day squad: Adam John (captain), Jacob Walters, Nicholas Morgan, Conor Ford, Ben Aston, Callum Lethardy, William Blake, Liam Morgan, Ieaun Davies and Sam Harding.

RH

Volunteers helped hospital beat snow

VOLUNTEERS from a 4x4 club have earned the heartfelt thanks of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board, for helping to ferry staff into the Princess of Wales Hospital during last week's winter weather.

Mark Humphrey from Brynmenyn; Robert Haines from Coity and Barrie Twose from Cornelly, are members of Bonkas 4x4 Wales.

They answered a call for volunteers with four-wheel drive vehicles to help transport key staff who were stranded in their homes by snow and ice.

The club's chairman posted a plea for volunteers on their website and when Mark, Robert and Barrie read it, they came forward straightaway.

Gaenor Shaw, manager of the hospital, said that their response showed how good community spirit in the area was.

"I am very proud to be working with such dedicated people and also grateful for the others who helped us during that difficult period."

TY HAFAN LOTTERY

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Porthcawl under-15s take a good scalp in Cardiff

PORTHCAWL under-15s visited Fairwater and, with both teams fielding district players, the game quickly became high tempo with both sets of forwards contesting well at the breakdown.

Jack Taylor, Evan Williams and Dan Evans formed a formidable back row unit, working tirelessly for ball and supporting the backs at all times.

After 10 minutes, a penalty was given to the Seagulls from 40 metres, which was coolly slotted by Josh White. Good tackling by Huw Mitchell and Geraint Watkins kept Fairwater from responding to the three points.

Ben Smith, Jack Williams and James Baynham were solid at set piece, and Emyr Wile and Owen Wright contested positively for every lineout, gaining the upper hand.

The platform was set for scrum half Connor Rees to move the ball at every opportunity. His pass resulted in Declan Brown scoring a fine individual try in the corner.

Porthcawl started the half strongly and smooth hands from Josh White and Tom Bluck gave centre Huw Mitchell the space to beat two men, and score a fine try in the corner. The wide angled conversion was kicked by Josh White.

Straight from the kick-off Fairwater, with their pacey backs, threw caution to the wind. Poor first-time tackling allowed the winger to score an excellent converted try.

Within minutes, Fairwater once again hit Porthcawl with their No 8 outpacing the cover tacklers to score under the posts. Again, the kick was converted.

With only one point in it going into the final quarter, a good lineout take by Owen Wright gave the Porthcawl backs quick ball. A dummy switch by Josh White gave Tom Bluck the crash ball to break the tackle and score a fine 30-metre try. Once again the conversion was successful by Josh White.

Porthcawl had too many key players performing to their maximum – Connor Rees and Josh White behind, and Jack Taylor, Jack Williams and Ben Smith up front.

Porthcawl finished the game on top and were continually pressing the Fairwater line. It was clinical up-front and controlled behind and only good tackling prevented Porthcawl scoring further tries.

Porthcawl were a solid 15-man outfit on the day, but were disappointed that there were two breakaway tries against the run of play, conceding 14 points.

"The boys came back from the enforced break with a steely determination not to be bullied and played positive rugby. This they did and beat a much-fancied Fairwater XV", enthused coach John Rees.

Final score: Fairwater 14 Porthcawl 22.

PB

Cottrell Park ladies look back on the past year

Jenny Knott, Anne Birt and Margaret James with Margaret Thomas, ladies' captain.

THE ladies of Cottrell Park Golf Club met on Saturday, January 15 for the ladies general meeting, which is the annual review and final meeting of the present committee – it had been postponed previously due to snow.

The meeting was well attended with 50 members present.

It was opened by the ladies' captain Margaret Thomas. Firstly, there was confirmation of Vicki Long, handicap secretary, Chris John, treasurer, and Judy James, members' representative, remaining in post for a further year.

The new officers were confirmed as Mary Watkins, competition secretary, Carol Bunyan, ladies secretary and Margaret Rees, members' representative.

Annual reports were then given by the treasurer, handicap secretary and retiring competition secretary Jenny McGlyne.

Margaret Thomas reported on her year as captain, which was very enjoyable with many successful golfing and social activities.

She thanked everyone who had supported her throughout the year and especially her vice-captain Lorraine Pointon-Bell.

She was unlucky with the weather, especially the 'Open week' and Captain's Day which were disappointing, but overall it was a good year.

She then presented bouquets of yellow and white tulips to the retiring officers, Jenny Knott (ladies secretary) Margaret James (members representative) and Anne Birt (immediate past captain).

Anne Birt then gave the vote of thanks to Margaret Thomas.

CB

Time runs out for the Llantwit Major under-11s

Llantwit Major under-11s played their last match in December 2009 against Llanharan, so it was ironic that the first game this year was against the same opponents.

This time, Llantwit travelled to Llanharan and were really up for the task ahead.

Llantwit Major won the toss and elected to kick to the opposition. As always, the kick is only as good as the chase.

Joe Hanson was the first to the ball catcher. He tackled the player and the ball was won by the Llantwit support.

The play trundled downfield and the team were unlucky to come away from this move without a score.

Unbelievably, Llanharan managed to smuggle the ball out and a clearance kick gave them some breathing space.

Joe Nott continued this year the way he finished last year and was a tower of strength in the mauls and with some fine darting runs, harried Llanharan throughout the match.

Half-time score: 0-0.

Llanharan must have been grateful for the half-time break as they were now playing down the slope and after three minutes managed to score a try from a five-metre scrum.

This was a well worked set move and the Llantwit boys were caught flat footed. This spurred them on and they threw everything at the opposition.

However, Llanharan again managed to scramble the ball away and the play moved back into the Llantwit 22.

Following a line-out, Llanharan spread the ball across the field and squeezed in at the corner with three Llantwit boys thinking they had done enough to push him into touch.

However, the referee awarded the try. This went unconverted and the score was 12-0.

With the game restarting, Harry Morgan-Grant kicked the ball into touch, well into the 22 on the right hand side of the pitch.

The resulting lineout was won by Llanharan who could not clear the ball and with several boys putting Llanharan under pressure, Llantwit managed to win a penalty on the far side.

The ball was firstly taken forward by Scott Ankin and Scott Bunting.

Then it was spun across the field and went through several pairs of hands until it came to the centre Alex Wear, who still had it all to do.

He managed to power his way over the line to score his first try for Llantwit Major.

This was duly converted by Harry Morgan-Grant.

The game had really come to life and Llantwit pounded away at the dogged defence of Llanharan, and were extremely unlucky that time was not on their side.

The final score was 12-7 in Llanharan's favour.

The man-of-the-match was Ben Simpson-McCourt. Next week, the under-11s travel to CRICC.

Llantwit Major: Harry Morgan-Grant, Joe Nott, Joe Hanson, Scott Ankin, Scott Bunting, Tom Slimmings, Alex Wear, Alex Parry, Taylor Mason, Evan Holloway, Ethan Forrest, Cai Jones and man of the match Ben Simpson-McCourt.

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04 04 FORD Street Ka Luxury 1.6 CONVERTIBLE luxury. Black, 49k miles, leather, rcl, a/c, cd, e/w **£5,975**
06 06 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique CONVERTIBLE. Black met, 21k miles, rcl, a/c, cd, e/w **£8,975**
04 04 SAAB 93 2.0T Vector CONVERTIBLE. Grey met, 50k miles, alloys, cd, a/c, rcl, full leather **£9,475**
04 04 MERCEDES SL 500 AUTO CONVERTIBLE. Silver met, 82k miles, nav, keyless go, leather, park sensors **£19,975**

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06 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life A/C AUTO 5dr. Panacotta, **only 4,900 miles**
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06 56 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Climate 5dr. Red met, **only 2.000 miles**
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06 56 FORD Focus C-Max Zetec 2.0 AUTO 5dr. Met mintgreen, **only 4300 miles!**
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06 56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 Sport 5dr. Grey met, **only 2,500 miles**
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06 06 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique. Red met, **only 4,500 miles!**
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58 09 FORD Fusion 1.4 5dr Style AUTO. Red met, **only 1,000 miles!**
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06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Style Climate AUTO. Blue met, **only 3,700 miles**
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08 **08 JAGUAR X-Type 2.2 Diesel Sport premium plus.** In metallic nightshade with full cream leather interior, heated electric memory seats, colour touch screen sat nav, bluetooth, 18" Jaguar split rim alloy wheels, front and rear parking distance control, fsh **£16,995**

07 **07 JAGUAR X K convertible.** Zircon blue metallic with ivory sports leather interior, upgraded 20 inch setanta wheels, full colour satellite navigation, electric heated memory seats, cruise control, climate control, rear parking sensors, bluetooth phone prep, only 12,621 miles, fsh, 1 owner **£42,995**

07 **56 JAGUAR X-Type 2.0D SE Estate.** In shadow grey with full leather interior, colour touch screen sat nav, heated seats, cruise control, climate control, only 18,495 miles, fsh, ... **£14,995**

06 **56 BMW 2.0TD 320D SE 4-dr Saloon.** In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, automatic air con, upgraded alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 41,655 miles, fsh **£14,995**

06 **56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr** in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary I-pod connection, only 19,950 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers **£11,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz 1.8 SLK 200 Compressor Auto 2-dr Convertible** in Tellur silver, black leather interior, climate control, multi function steering wheel, CD, alloys, only 61,000 miles, fsh **£16,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 TD ML270 CDI Automatic 5-Door Station Wagon.** In Brilliant silver with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 52,975 miles **£15,995**

05 **55 VOLVO S40 2.0 Diesel SE** in Amethyst with Ivory Leather interior, cd, alloys, cruise control, electric sunroof, electric seats, only 34,255 miles **£9,995**

04 **54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe.** In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles **£19,995**

01 **51 JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 V6 4-Door Saloon Automatic.** In Pacific blue with cashmere beige full leather interior, climate control, CD, electric seats, rear parking sensors, only 55,810 miles **£5,995**

SPORTS

07 **07 VW Beetle 1.6 Luna 2-dr Cabriolet.** In harvest moon beige with dark interior, heated seats, CD, front fogs, colour coded bumpers, only 11,335 miles **£12,995**

07 **07 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In Onyx black with Madrid black/grey interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, front fogs, colour coded bumpers, only 29,405 miles **£8,495**

06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8TDCi Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles **£7,495**

06 **55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSi 5-dr Sport Back** in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior. BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, climate conrol, cd, only 39,280 miles **£11,995**

05 **05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chilli Pack).** Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles **£11,995**

05 **55 BMW X3 2.0D Sport 5-dr Station Wagon.** In blue water silver with black leather interior, sat nav, multi CD, heated seats, front and rear parking sensors, only 61,930 miles **£14,995**

05 **54 MG ZT-T 1.8T 160 5-dr Estate.** In Royal blue, Monaco ash half leather interior, alloy wheels, climate control, multi-function steering wheel, only 32,320 miles **£5,995**

04 **54 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe.** In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles **£7,995**

04 **54 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 HDi 110bhp GTi 3-dr Hatchback.** In Sahara yellow with half anthracite leather/suede interior, digital air con, multi CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 22,755 miles **£6,995**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles **£6,995**

03 **53 MGTF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible.** In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£4,495**

03 **03 BMW 330d MSport 3.0 TD Auto 5-door Touring Estate.** In metallic silver with black leather interior, heated seats, rear parking aid, cruise control, automatic air con, multi CD, only 47,200 miles **£10,995**

02 **02 HONDA Accord 2.3i VTEC Type V (150)** in Atlantic blue with tan leather interior, electric drivers seat, sunroof, alloy wheels, climate control, rear parking sensors, only 48,000 miles **£4,495**

01 **Y AUDI TT Roadster 1.8T Quattro (225)** in met silver with full granite leather, 18" alloy wheels, heated seats, trip computer, cruise control + climate control, cd multi-changer with BOSE stereo upgrade, only 63,010 miles **£8,495**

00 **X TVR Tuscan 4 litre V8 360bhp.** In crystal topaz pearl blue with portland grey leather interior, cd, 18" spyder alloy wheels, e/windows, cat 1 alarm, e/mirrors, a/c, substantial workshop portfolio, supreme example, only 36,000 miles **£12,995**

99 **T BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr Convertible.** In Green with green leather interior, colour coded bumpers, CD, alloy wheels, electric hood, only 51,300 miles **£5,995**

FAMILY

07 **57 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi Style 5-dr Hatchback.** In tonic blue with heated front screen, climate control, CD, cruise control, only 16,700 miles **£9,295**

06 **56 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr hatchback.** In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles **£7,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5-dr MPV** in tonic blue with dark flint interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 31,000 miles **£8,995**

06 **06 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 16V SE 5-dr Hatchback.** In hurricane grey with Ikho black interior, front fog lights, multi CD, air con, rear parking sensors, only 40,018 miles **£6,995**

05 **55 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6i 16v 110hp Exclusive 5-dr MPV.** Oriental blue, blue interior, cruise, auto a/c, front fogs, steering wheel mounted audio controls, only 32,355 miles **£6,495**

05 **54 CITROEN Xsara Picasso Exclusive 1.6HDi.** In icelandic green metallic with doris blue interior, cruise control, climate control, alloy wheels, trip computer, cd, 1 owner, only 29,420 miles **£7,495**

04 **54 PEUGEOT 206 SW 2.0 HDi 90 XSi 5-dr Estate.** China blue, black/grey merlin interior, a/c, body coloured bumpers, cd, alloys, only 45,796 miles **£5,995**

04 **54 RENAULT Scenic 1.4 16v Authentique** in met grey with anthracite interior, a/c, auto wipers, auto lights, only 42,800 miles **£4,695**

04 **04 MAZDA 3 1.6TS 5-dr Hatchback** in titanium grey with blue sport cloth interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, steering wheel mounted audio controls, only 54,805 miles **£5,295**

04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£6,995**

04 **04 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 120 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In metallic silver, with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, air con, only 42,955 miles **£5,995**

02 **52 NISSAN Almera 1.8 SVE 5-dr Hatchback.** Grey tungsten cloth, cd, a/c, reversing sensors, colour coded bumpers, only 44,300 miles **£3,995**

02 **52 AUDI A4 1.9 TDi SE.** In denim blue with phoenix blue upholstery, climate control, cd, alloys, only 26,075 miles **£7,995**

01 **Y BMW 3 Series 1.9i 316 4-dr Saloon.** In bright red with dark interior, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 49,125 miles **£4,295**

SMALL

08 **58 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 VVT-I T2 5-dr Hatchback.** In crystal silver, electric windows and mirrors, CD, multi-function steering wheel, only 3,725 miles **£7,995**

08 **08 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Breeze** in black sapphire, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, multi-functional steering wheel, only 5,242 miles **£7,495**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi 68 Extreme hatchback.** In black with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, cd, electric windows, remote central locking, alarm, immobiliser, only £35 per year road tax, 27,650 miles **£7,295**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Expression 3-dr** in platinum silver met with voile interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, remote central locking, elec windows, alarm and immobiliser, only 4,747 miles **£6,995**

06 **56 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCi 106 Dynamique S 6 speed 3-dr Hatchback.** In eclipse black, dark interior, a/c, CD, alloys, colour coded bumpers, one owner, only 44,375 miles **£7,495**

06 **56 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 5-dr Hatchback.** In Tonic blue with Kompass blue interior, air con, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, only 39,475 miles **£6,495**

06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus Sport** in pearl black pearlescent with extreme interior, colour coded bumpers, remote central locking, alloy wheels, alarm and immobiliser, electric windows, only 22,488 miles **£5,295**

06 **55 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVT-i Sport** in carbon quartz met with dark flint interior, alloy wheels, cd, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, elecctric windows, only 51,300 miles **£4,995**

05 **55 FORD KA Luxury 1.3 3-dr Hatchback.** In Tonic blue with ebony leather interior, air con, quick clear screen, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 16,980 miles **£5,495**

04 **54 FORD Ka 1.3 3-door Hatchback.** In deep navy blue with indigo cascade cloth interior, CD, ABS, immobiliser, power steering, only 31,595 miles **£2,995**

04 **04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 COUPE CONVERTIBLE 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cdm alloy wheels, alarm, only 43,895 miles **£6,495**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In Platinum silver with dark grey interior, sunroof, alloy wheels, CD, front fogs, only 37,700 miles **£4,795**

04 **04 FORD Ka 1.3 Style 3-dr Hatchback.** In moondust silver with digit anthracite interior, CD, power steering, colour coded bumpers, only 48,656 miles **£3,495**

03 **53 VW Beetle 3-dr Hatchback.** In platinum grey with Cavasta grey interior, heated seats, CD, electric windows, only 30,850 miles **£6,495**

03 **03 Nissan Micra 1.0 E hatchback.** In aruba blue with urban interior, body coloured bumpers, cd, electric windows, alaem and immobiliser, only 38,000 miles **£3,795**

02 **02 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 64,220 miles **£5,495**

02 **52 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback** in met silver with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 48,060 miles **£3,995**

02 **02 DAEWOO Matiz 0.8 SE 5-dr.** In super red with grey interior, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 30,288 miles **£2,495**

01 **51 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Convertible SE 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, digital climate control, cd, 16 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, only 46.010 miles **£3,995**

00 **X RENAULT Megane 1.4 16v Sport Alize 2-Door Coupe.** In Monaco blue with blue interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, immobiliser, only 62,000 miles **£2,495**

L **93 AUSTIN Mini 1.3 Sprite 2-dr Saloon Automatic.** In night fire red with grey interior, all original specification, only 47,215 miles **£2,995**

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01 **51 JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 V6 4-Door Saloon Automatic.** In Pacific blue with cashmere beige full leather interior, climate control, CD, electric seats, rear parking sensors, only 55,810 miles..... **£5,995**

05 **55 VOLVO S40 2.0 Diesel SE** in Amethyst with Ivory Leather interior, cd, alloys, cruise control, electric sunroof, electric seats, only 34,255 miles... ..... **£9,995**

06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus Sport** in pearl black pearlescent with extreme interior, colour coded bumpers, remote central locking, alloy wheels, alarm and immobiliser, electric windows, only 22,488 miles..... **£5,295**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In Platinum silver with dark grey interior, sunroof, alloy wheels, CD, front fogs, only 37,700 miles..... **£4,795**

08 **58 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 VVT-I T2 5-dr Hatchback.** In crystal silver, electric windows and mirrors, CD, multi-function steering wheel, only 3,725 miles..... ..... **£7,995**

06 **55 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVT-i Sport** in carbon quartz met with dark flint interior, alloy wheels, cd, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, elecctric windows, only 51,300 miles..... **£4,995**

00 **X RENAULT Megane 1.4 16v Sport Alize 2-Door Coupe.** In Monaco blue with blue interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, immobiliser, only 62,000 miles..... **£2,495**

01 **51 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Convertible SE 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, digital climate control, cd, 16 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, only 46.010 miles..... **£3,995**

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FordNew Ka Studio
1.2 8v Duratec (69PS)

On The Road Price**	£6,295.00
24 Monthly Payments	£101.91
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£5,845.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£476.84
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£6,718.84
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£3,876.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £1000 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

***Subject to finance. Deposit Allowance paid by Ford Motor Company when financed on typical 4.9% APR through Ford Credit.

FordNew Fiesta Zetec
1.25 16v Duratec (82PS)

On The Road Price**	£10,195.00
24 Monthly Payments	£163.73
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£8,745.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£699.52
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£9,454.52
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,515.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £2,550 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

***Subject to finance. Deposit Allowance paid by Ford Motor Company when financed on typical 4.9% APR through Ford Credit.

FordFocus Zetec
1.6 16v Petrol (100PS) Euro Stage IV

On The Road Price**	£12,295.00
24 Monthly Payments	£250.81
Deposit Allowance***	£1,500.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£1,500.00
Amount of Credit	£10,795.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£804.44
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£11,599.44
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,580.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £3,950.00 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

***Subject to finance. Deposit Allowance paid by Ford Motor Company when financed on typical 4.9% APR through Ford Credit.

FordNew Fiesta Edge
1.25 Petrol (60PS)

On The Road Price**	£8,395.00
24 Monthly Payments	£143.73
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£7,845.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£631.52
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£8,846.52
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,027.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £2,200.00 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

***Subject to finance. Deposit Allowance paid by Ford Motor Company when financed on typical 4.9% APR through Ford Credit.

FordNew Ka Style +
1.2 8v Duratec (69PS)

On The Road Price**	£7,295.00
24 Monthly Payments	£130.17
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£6,845.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£545.08
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£7,400.08
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£4,266.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £1.200.00 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

***Subject to finance. Deposit Allowance paid by Ford Motor Company when financed on typical 4.9% APR through Ford Credit.

FordMondeo Zetec 5 door
2.0 Diesel TDCi 6sp

On The Road Price**	£15,995.00
24 Monthly Payments	£371.23
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Customer Deposit	£nil
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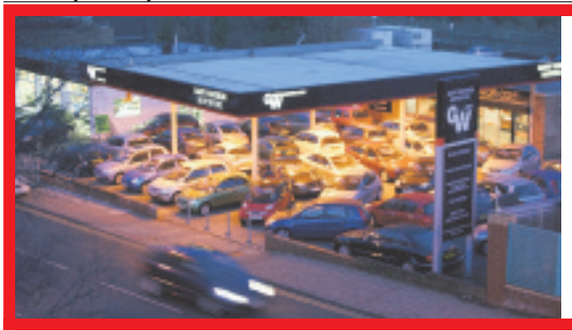

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GEM sport

New captain signposts Bridgend Town's cricketing ambitions

BRIDGEND Town Cricket Club plan to capitalise on the most successful year in the club's history by appointing former Glamorgan fast bowler Andrew Davies as captain.

Davies, who enjoyed a 12-year professional career with the Welsh outfit, will work alongside current club coach Michael Jones.

In 2009, three of the club's four senior teams won promotion, and the club was granted full England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) accreditation. This put the club in a very strong position both on and off the field, and right through the senior and junior teams to the ladies section.

A club spokesman said: "Having spent much of his career working with top players and coaches such as Matthew Maynard and Duncan Fletcher, the experience that Davies will bring to the club will be invaluable.

"Not only will his quality be an asset on the pitch, hopefully, he will be able to nurture the development of the youngsters."

The quick bowler, who specialised in one-day games, took 147 wickets at an average of 28.04 in 108 games.

On his arrival at the club, Davies said: "Having spoken to both Roger Davies and club chairman Alun Bunston, it's obvious that the club are making great inroads both on and off the field.

"The progress made last year was shown by the appointment of an overseas coach, and the promotions, but the club is in such a strong position that drastic changes will not be necessary, just a little bit of tweaking here and there."

Since retiring from the first class scene, Davies has been working in the financial sector with a successful investment company in Swansea.

Davies explained his reasons for signing: "The club was highly successful in all aspects last season, and has taken great strides in moving forward. It is very much a developing and improving club. Also, playing locally will enable my family to come and watch me more often."

Former Glamorgan player Roger Davis, now the club's director of cricket, stated that signing Andrew Davies was a massive boost for the club.

Club stalwart Bunston added: "Andrew Davies' signing shows how far the club has moved forward in the last year, and the ambition it has to become one of the top clubs in south east Wales.

"With both Andrew and Mike on board, I feel Bridgend Town CC has the best coaching team available for our members, and it will help bring long term sustainable success."

Both Davies and Jones will be involved in the club's pre-season net sessions which start on March 3 at Tondu Cricket Club, 8pm-10pm.

Further information can obtained from club chairman Alun Bunston on 01656 646962.

Not to be forgotten, the junior section will be first to start their winter nets on Sunday, January 17 at Ogmore Comprehensive School, Bryncethin. Under-18s/16s/14s are from 10am-12pm, and under-12s are from 1pm-2.30pm. New players are most welcome. *Anyone wishing to join should contact junior organiser Tony Smith on 01656 668995.*

The club also run a successful ladies team, although, because of a lack of female teams in the area, the club are being forced to play in the new south-west league.

For further information, contact team manager Kerry Brett on 01656 667833 or 07778 523575.

The ladies will also have club coach Mike Jones at their disposal to help improve their game.

Finally, last November the club held its annual general meeting, where for the first time in several years, the club's officers remained unchanged.

During the meeting, Bunston – who became the club's youngest ever life member, for more than 30 years' service – praised the efforts of everyone who has been involved in the club.

A list of the club officers: Chairman – Alun Bunston; vice-chairman – Andrew Marvell; secretary – Aurwel Morgan; treasurer – Huw Davies; fixture secretary – Howard Ling; CWO – Liz Pearce; director of cricket – Roger Davis; member representatives – Colin Kelly and Simon Dalton.

Captains for the coming season are: First XI – Andrew Davies; second XI – Huw Miles; third XI – Liam Weller; fourth XI – Paul Minchington; Ladies XI – Heledd Clarke.

PYLE AND KENFIG GOLF CLUB NEWS

First team plan for their Glamorgan title defence

PYLE and Kenfig Golf Club first team are planning their defence of the Glamorgan Premier League, after taking the title last season with 16 points out a possible 20, winning eight out of 10 matches.

The season started and ended with matches against closest rivals Neath. Pyle and Kenfig were delighted to win on both occasions against this very competitive team. There is great friendly rivalry between the teams, particularly as team captain Matthew Peet has a brother-in-law, also called Matthew, in the Neath team.

Some consider this a return to their rightful position as Pyle and Kenfig once held this title for a remarkable five out of seven years, but that was seven years ago.

Team members put the success in no small measure to the inspirational leadership of new captain Matthew Peet, current and many times club champion. Matthew led from the front by winning eight of the nine games he played.

Ian Booth, course record holder and eight times club champion, also punched his weight and won eight out of 10.

The team also did well in the Welsh team championships, winning three of their four matches.

Optimism and enthusiasm abound within the team as they eagerly await the start of the new season!

Telephone the office on 01656 783093, or the professional (Dylan Williams) 01656 772446, e-mail secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk, or check website www.pandkgolfclub.co.uk for further information.

Team captain Matthew Peet.

Pencoed RFC look to hang on to division two status

PENCOED RFC go into the second half of the season with the miserable record of only one win in the nine league matches played.

Led by former youth captain James Murphy, the side has plenty of individual talent but has misfired, a meagre six tries to date as evidence of this.

Has the recent bad weather been a blessing in disguise? We shall see, with postponements at Maesteg, Ammanford, and Pontyberem home, this has hopefully given the squad time to regroup, and play the type of rugby their frustrated supporters yearn for.

Their fate surely will be decided over the next seven fixtures against mid-to-lower table sides (third-placed Loughor the exception).

The 'lambs' currently at the foot of the division will have to take on 'lions' qualities during the second half of the season to preserve their Division Two status.

The experienced trio of new team manager Lyndon Griffiths, and coaches Kevin Mably, and Phil Pinches will have to call on all their combined experience to ensure the necessary resolve is within the squad for the task ahead, then perhaps the scoring potential in the side will surface.

TR

Porthcawl RFC under-10s are back in action after long lay-off

PORTHCAWL under-10s joined Bridgend Athletic and Rumney at Newbridge Fields for a round-robin tournament.

Porthcawl's first game was against the Athletic Yellows and, predictably, the matches against the Ath were very close.

The Yellows went two tries up within minutes and also slotted over their conversions.

Visibly shaken, Porthcawl sprang into life with tries from Joe Beale and Zakk Furness-Jones. Both tries were easily converted by Zakk.

The Ath, not impressed with the Green and Blacks return to form, scored another two tries and looked comfortable right up until the last seconds, when Matthew Roberts thundered over for a well-deserved try. Although converted by Zakk, it wasn't enough and the Yellows ran out winners by 26-21.

Bridgend Ath Greens against Porthcawl was, as expected, not a game for the faint hearted.

The Greens had already warmed up with a draw against Rumney and Porthcawl, rusty from lack of game time, tackled for their lives against a big Ath side.

Porthcawl scored first after an outstanding side-step and dummy from Brandon Cooper. Brandon converted his own try with style and the match was well and truly up and running.

Hard-running centre Dan Williams was next on the scoreboard with an outstanding try, all started by the fantastic work of the pack. Brandon converted and Porthcawl looked home and dry.

The Greens had other ideas though, and came back with a fantastic try to set-up a nail biting finish. Unfortunately for the Ath, it was not to be and Porthcawl ran out winners by 14-7.

Porthcawl and Rumney second teams played and Rumney claimed the spoils by 7-0. Both teams defended with determination, but Rumney managed to breach the Porthcawl line just the once and hold on to the lead.

Finally, Porthcawl and Rumney played their strongest squads in an eagerly anticipated match as Rumney are, one of, if not the best, under-10 sides in Cardiff.

The Seaweeds started strongly with a try from speedster Joe Stradling, converted by Brandon Cooper, and didn't look back.

They dominated the game and scored their second try within seconds of the first. Louis Protheroe was the scorer and Brandon the converter.

Ethan Waters was next with a score fashioned from good support work. Louis converted this one and Porthcawl were well into their stride. Louis claimed his second and Brandon the kick, to make the final score Porthcawl 28, Rumney 0.

The amount of commitment shown from all sides, I think everyone would agree, was truly outstanding, especially as these boys are only 10 years old.

The coaches decided not to name a man-of-the-match but to congratulate every player.

Thank you to Bridgend Athletic for the invite.

Rest of Porthcawl squad: Connor Grant, Ben Collins, Cameron Williams, Callum Morgan, Max Budding, Kurtis Pridmore, Ben Davies, Ben Roach, Connor Harrington-Pittam, Meuryn Nelson, Joe Beale, Sam Edwards, Lloyd Mortimer.

IB

Tondu under-13s are quickly out of the blocks

TONDU under-13s visited Aberavon Green Stars and scored first when Carwyn Dent was released down the wing to touchdown – the try was converted by Rhydian Jenkins.

The next try was scored by Ieuan Evans, who fielded an overhead kick to touchdown, converted by Rhydian Jenkins.

Tondu again added to their lead when Ashley Baker cross-kicked to Lewis Austin on the wing, and he caught the ball and romped down the wing to score. It was converted by Rhydian Jenkins.

Lewis Austin got on the scoreboard again, this time fly-hacking a kick over the line and touching down, once again converted by Rhydian Jenkins.

Following a concerted period of pressure, Joe Jones was able to drive over from a ruck to claim the try, again covered by Rhydian Jenkins.

Joe Jones scored next, driving over from five metres, ably assisted by Cole Lewis and friends. The next try was scored by Lloyd Webb, who weaved his way into midfield on the halfway line and had the pace to beat the defence to score near the posts. (Converted by Rhydian Jenkins).

The last try was scored by Carwyn Dent who had the pace to run down the wing and touch down under the posts.

Final score: Aberavon Green Stars 0 Tondu 52.

EJ

Will gelding be Gordon's next racing hot shot?

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

POINT-TO-POINT racehorse owner Gordon Lewis, of St Mary Church, Cowbridge, unfortunately had to spend Christmas and New Year in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after falling and breaking his hip and a knee cap when visiting his farming friend, Richard Adams.

Gordon has owned many point-to-pointers over the years, the best of them being *Proud Prince* whom legendary Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn rode to victory at Cheltenham.

Let us hope Gordon will have better luck with his new point-to-pointer *Tostaky*, a French-bred six-year-old bay gelding, trained by former leading Welsh rider Phil Williams.

Pint-sized *Tostaky* lost his maiden tag when landing the open maiden race in good style at the Seavington at Littlewindsor last April.

Merthyr Mawr's Jonathan Tudor has a team of seven point-to-pointers for the coming Welsh season. They are newcomers *Lady Trig*, *Port Macquarie* and *Rosses Point*, his dual Crudwell Gold Cup winner *Minsgills Man*, *MerthyrMawr*, *Musique En Tete* and *Synisterdexter*.

It seems some racehorse owners expect instant results and Aberthin's Tim Vaughan must have been a little surprised when owner Paul Beck returned *Atouchbetweenacara*, *Flintoff* and *Stan*, after a comparatively short time, to their former trainer Venetia Williams, who trains in Herefordshire.

The horses had been with Tim only a matter of months but Beck told the press: "I made a mistake, simple as that. I had dinner with Venetia over Christmas and decided to send the horses back to her. I realised how much I had missed the set-up there, from the staff who look after the horses to the travelling head lad, the facilities everything. That's not to knock Tim or what he has tried to achieve with the horses, I wish him all the best."

Tim has made a name for himself in the racing world for winning races with horses that other trainers have failed to win with, so Mr Beck's antics are puzzling to say the least.

You can email your news and views to Brian Lee at leebrian@btinternet.com or phone him on 02920 736438.